Bengaluru Tuesday, November 11, 2025 Pages 16 Vol 78 No 311 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Dharmendra in hospital, please pray for his health: Hema Malini

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World

Trump threatens BBC with legal action over edited speech P.12

Nation

Lok Sabha women's quota: SC notice to Centre P.11

Business

15L tonnes of sugar to be exported P.14

State

RGUHS to roll out Kannada course P.5

PAST BLASTS IN DELHI

- **June 18, 2000** — **2 killed,** a dozen injured in 2 powerful blasts near Red Fort
- **May 22, 2005** — **1 killed,** 60 injured in serial blasts in 2 cinema halls
- **Oct 29, 2005** — **59 killed,** more than 100 injured in three explosions
- **April 14, 2006** — At least 14 people injured in 2 explosions at Jama Masjid
- **Sept 13, 2008** — **25 killed** and over 100 injured in five serial blasts across Delhi
- **Sept 27, 2008** — **3 killed** and 21 injured in a low-intensity blast at Mehrauli flower market
- **Sept 7, 2011** — **15 killed** in briefcase bomb blast at Delhi High Court.

9 killed, 20 injured in Delhi car blast

Cops probing terror angle in massive explosion near Red Fort

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

At least nine people were killed and around 20 injured in a high intensity explosion in a "slow-moving" car near the iconic Red Fort in the national capital, as investigators looked for clues to ascertain whether the blast has any terror angle.

Home Minister Amit Shah, who visited the spot and the hospital where the injured were being treated, said in a video message that "all possibilities will be thoroughly probed and the people (will) be informed" about the details of the blast that took place in an i20 Hyundai car at Subhash Marg traffic signal.

Shah said CCTV footage from the vicinity will be collected and other aspects would be looked into very seriously. "All options will be investigated immediately and we will present the results to the public," Shah said.

Delhi police commissioner Satish Golcha told reporters that the incident took place when a "slow-moving" Hyundai i20 with passengers moving towards the traffic signal exploded at 6.52 pm. When asked whether it was a terror strike, Golcha said they were "examining" the nature of the explosion.

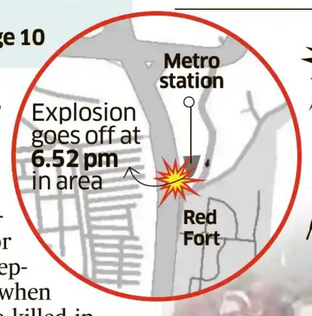
The national capital had witnessed a terror strike last on September 7, 2011 when 14 people were killed in an explosion at the Delhi High Court. Delhi also witnessed serial blasts on September 13, 2008 in which 25 people were killed and 150 injured.

Panic and chaos reigned in the crowded locality that is near the Chandni Chowk market and Jama Masjid as the car went up in flames.

▸ Delhi blast, Page 6
Karnataka police on alert, P4
PM takes stock of situation, Page 10

Vehicle owner detained in Gurugram

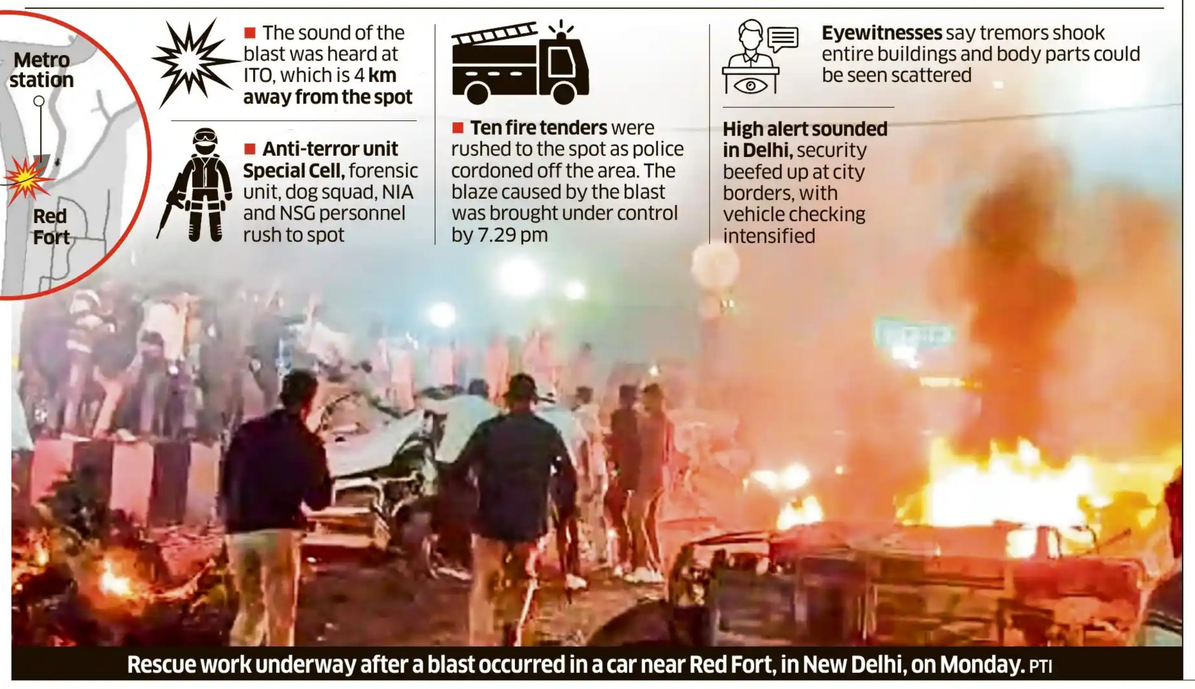
The Delhi police detained the owner of a car in which an explosion occurred near the Red Fort on Monday. The owner, identified as Md Salman, had sold it to a person in Okhla named Devendra.
Details on Page 10



MONDAY HORROR — High-intensity blast jolts capital, triggers panic

Amit Shah visits hospital; chaos at blast site; high alert in capital

- Powerful explosion goes off near the Red Fort in Old Delhi at **6.52 pm**
- Explosion occurs in **slow-moving vehicle** which had stopped at the traffic light
- **2-3 people** were seated in the car which exploded outside Gate 1 of Red Fort Metro station
- The blast also left **six cars, two e-rickshaws** and one autorickshaw gutted
- The sound of the blast was heard at ITO, which is 4 **km away from the spot**
- **Anti-terror unit Special Cell,** forensic unit, dog squad, NIA and NSG personnel rush to spot
- **Ten fire tenders** were rushed to the spot as police cordoned off the area. The blaze caused by the blast was brought under control by 7.29 pm
- **Eyewitnesses** say tremors shook entire buildings and body parts could be seen scattered
- **High alert sounded in Delhi,** security beefed up at city borders, with vehicle checking intensified



Rescue work underway after a blast occurred in a car near Red Fort, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

J&K cops unearth major terror module

3 doctors arrested; 2,900 kg explosives seized

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

In one of the biggest counter-terrorism operations in recent years, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday said it dismantled an interstate and transnational terror module linked to the proscribed outfits Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH).

Eight people, including three doctors, were arrested following a series of coordinated raids in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Police said the operation led to the recovery of around 2,900 kg of IED-making material— a haul large enough to trigger multiple large-scale explosions— besides weapons and ammunition from a hideout in Faridabad.

Officials said the suspects were part of a "white-collar terror network" — educated individuals who used professional cover and encrypted communication channels to coordinate finances and material procurement.

▸ Terror module, Page 6

Security personnel patrol in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday. PTI

MAJOR BUST

- Recovery of 3 tonnes of explosive precursors triggers wider security review
- **Seized materials:** Ammonium nitrate, sulphur, aluminium powder, remote-control circuits and timers
- Quantity large enough to trigger multiple large-scale explosions
- Found laboratory-grade reagents, measuring equipment

Top jail official moved out over VIP perks for inmates

BENGALURU, DHNS

After the row over videos purportedly showing inmates enjoying VIP treatment inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in Bengaluru, the Karnataka government on Monday transferred the prison's top official, Chief Superintendent K Suresha, and replaced him with an IPS officer.

Following a high-level meeting, Home Minister G Parameshwara said that, for the first time, the government will post an IPS officer as the chief superintendent of the Parappana Agrahara Prison.

Later in the day, an order appointing Anshu Kumar, Superintendent of Police (Prisons), as the chief superintendent of Parappana Agrahara Prison was issued. The order noted that the post was equivalent to that of SP, Mandya.

"Superintendent of Prison Myageri and Assistant Superintendent Ashok Bhajantri have been placed under immediate suspension," Parameshwara said after chairing the high-level meeting.

The meeting came in the aftermath of the emergence of videos last week of notorious criminals, including serial rapist Umesh Reddy and terror suspect Juhad Hameed Shakeel Manna, using smartphones and enjoying alleged preferential treatment inside the high-security jail.

Gold smuggling suspect Tarun Konduru Raju was also seen in the videos.

"I have reviewed the developments in prisons in the state. Some videos are from 2023, not from yesterday or the day before. Only a couple of videos were from the last three to four months. We have discussed and got answers from those who were there in 2023, who were there in 2024, and who are there now," the home minister said.

The minister also announced a slew of measures to improve security conditions in prisons, including improving infrastructure and setting up of a command centre.

Govt forms high-power panel, Page 4

Hebbal short tunnel project to cost whopping Rs 1,385 cr

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A whopping Rs 1,385.28 crore — that's what the Karnataka government plans to spend for building a short 2.2-km tunnel road for easing traffic congestion at Hebbal junction.

A "new" project has been conceptualised on the grounds that the longer tunnel road – connecting Central Silk Board and Hebbal (16.74-km) – will take about 10 years to complete.

These frequent changes in planning have left mobility experts in red.

In its detailed project report (DPR), which was prepared by New Delhi-based Rodic Consultants, the same agency that had prepared a similar report for the 16.74-km project, a short length underground road has been proposed between Esteem Mall and Veterinary College via UAS campus.

The consulting firm has suggested a cut-and-cover method of construction as against using tunnel boring machines.

It means busy roads will be completely blocked to cut open the surface to build the tunnel.

The plan shows that the project will infringe on the future Metro line, existing railway line and passes along the Hebbal lake buffer zone.

The short tunnel is unlikely to solve traffic congestion on Ballari Road, especially between Hebbal and Windsor Manor, but will worsen in places like Mehkri Circle, near the magic box underpass, Palace Cross Road etc.

Another report, Page 2

According to the DPR, busy roads will be completely blocked to cut open the surface to build the tunnel.

Namaz at KIA: BJP slams Cong govt

The Opposition BJP on Monday slammed the Congress government for "Muslim appeasement" after a group was seen offering namaz at Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport. Page 5

Maternal deaths down by 24% in state: DGR

Maternal deaths in the state have gone down by 24% compared to the previous year, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Monday. In 2024, 483 maternal deaths were reported till October. Page 6

CASHING IN

'Labour force participation declining after Yuva Nidhi dole'

BHARATH JOSHI & RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has witnessed "a slight decline" in the labour force participation rate (LFPR) among graduates and diploma holders after the government started paying unemployment allowance under the Yuva Nidhi scheme, a study has found.

The study was done by Mumbai-based research group XKDR Forum, covering over 12,000 respondents across 29 districts as part of an assessment of the Congress government's five 'guarantee' schemes.

Under Yuva Nidhi, which is Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's pet scheme, the government pays Rs 3,000 a month to graduates and Rs 1,500 to diploma holders who are unemployed for 180 days or more upon completion of their degree. Allowance is paid up to two years or till the beneficiary gets a job, whichever is earlier.

Payments to 2.84 lakh beneficiaries started in January 2024.

There are 31% households in Karnataka who have at least one diploma holder or graduate.

In 2022, the LFPR in Karnataka was 65.9%. This dropped slightly to 65% in 2023. In 2024, it was 63.6%.

"The LFPR in Karnataka for diploma and graduate degree holders is seeing a slight decline from the pre-scheme period," the study report said. "This trend varies across [regions], with rural especially deviating much lower than the state average."

The rural labour force participation in 2022 was 63.1%, which dropped to 55.1% in 2024. Similarly, in urban areas, it was 66.3% in 2022, which reduced to 65.3% last year.

Labour force participation rose in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chikballapur, Kolar and Ramangara from 63.4% in 2022 to 67.6% in 2024.

LFPR has fallen in all other districts. The steepest fall was in a cohort comprising Belagavi, Davangere, Dharwad, Gadag, Haveri and Shivamogga -- from 67.4% to 58.5%.

However, the study said early trends "disprove" the hypothesis that unemployment allowance lowers the incentive for graduates or diploma holders to find work, adding that there was a decline in LFPR in Maharashtra, Goa, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala "while it was stable for Karnataka".

Skill Development Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said "no beneficiary is sitting at home doing nothing because of the allowance".

"Beneficiaries are not attending job fairs thinking the allowance will stop if they undergo training," Patil said. "I want to make it clear that it won't stop unless they get a job."

Fraction of employable graduates/diploma holders in the labour force (in %)

	2022	2023	2024
Rural	63.1	58.3	55.1
Urban	66.3	66	65.3
Karnataka	65.9	65	63.6
Rural India	64.8	65.5	64.5
Urban India	59.9	60.6	60.3
India	60.5	61.3	61

Source: XKDR Forum report

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Experts object to Rs 1,385-crore spend on 2.2-km tunnel at Hebbal

Voice concern over delaying three metro projects

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

To justify building a short tunnel at Hebbal for Rs 1,385 crore, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) stated in its detailed project report (DPR) that the larger 16.74-km Hebbal–Central Silk Board tunnel road would take nearly a decade to complete due to its scale and complexity.

This contrasts B-SMILE's earlier commitment in its Rs 9.5-crore DPR, approved by the state government in May, which projected that the 16.74-km tunnel road would be completed in four years, by 2031.

Rodic Consultants, a New Delhi-based private agency responsible for the DPR, proposed four cost estimates aimed at expediting tunnel work on the North–South corridor.

The first option involved six tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to construct 1.08 km of tunnel, with a timeline of 62 months and a project cost of Rs 15,548 crore. The fourth option suggested using eight fast-moving TBMs to finish the work in 26 months, though the cost would rise to Rs 17,780 crore.

The government selected the fourth option, the most expensive but also the fastest, enabling completion within four years from tendering to launching the TBMs.

Despite ambitious timelines, the government commissioned the same agency to draft another DPR for a short tunnel on the northern stretch of the longer tunnel road.

The DPR stated: "For immediate congestion relief at Hebbal, a short-span underpass is proposed near Baptist Hospital and the airport-bound carriageway, enabling smoother directional flow and reduced load on the main flyover."

"This is akin to adding more fuel to the traffic fire," said Satya Arikutharam, an independent mobility consultant. "The congestion fire will rage brightly at Mehkri Circle, just like what happened when the short loop from the KR Puram side at Hebbal Junction became operational recently."

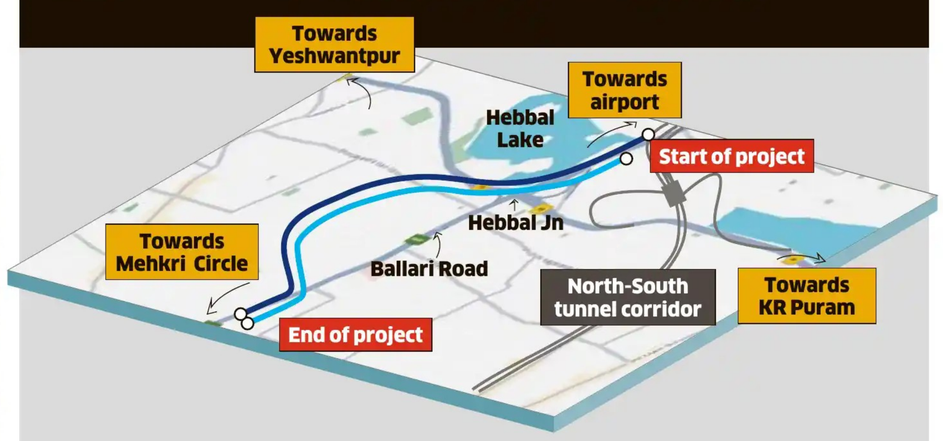
He further alleged that the DPR started with a pre-decided short-tunnel solution and then attempted to justify its need.

"Not only will this sow more chaos at Mehkri Circle, but it also worsens local traffic—the very issue it claims to address."

He questioned why the government drags its feet on three metro projects: one under construction, another approved, and a third stalled, allegedly over bloated cost estimates.

The plan shows the short tunnel alignment crosses a railway line, intersects the Outer Ring Road, extends into the lake buffer area, and then merges with the service road. The area is one of the low-lying parts of Bengaluru, which is expected to complicate construction further.

THE FINE PRINT As per the plan, the short tunnel alignment intersects a railway line, crosses the ORR, extends into the lake buffer area, and then merges with the service road.



> This is akin to adding more fuel to the traffic fire. The congestion fire will rage brightly at Mehkri Circle, just like what happened when the short loop from the KR Puram side at Hebbal Junction became operational recently.
> **Satya Arikutharam,** Independent mobility consultant

No exemption for BDA, must register NPK Layout: RERA

Says authorities constructing buildings for public sale qualify as 'promoter'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rejecting the Bangalore Development Authority's plea to stay outside its jurisdiction, the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) has directed the BDA to register the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) under its purview.

The order came in response to a petition filed over the delay in developing the layout.

The BDA had argued that it was a statutory authority, not a real estate promoter, and therefore should be exempt from RERA regulations.

RERA, however, ruled that under Section 2(zk)(iii) of the RERA Act, any development authority or public body that constructs or develops land or buildings for sale to the public qualifies as a "promoter". It further stated that the RERA Act has an overriding effect on other laws.

"While the BDA Act, 1976, governs planning and land development, RERA is a later and special enactment meant to regulate real estate projects and protect homebuyers. It does not interfere with the planning powers, but regulates transactions involving development and sale to allottees.

"Therefore, the contention that RERA interferes with planning powers is misplaced. Thus, to the extent of development, sale and delivery of plots, RERA has an overriding effect," the order said.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. DH FILE PHOTO

Dismissing the BDA's claim that its projects were government welfare schemes rather than profit-oriented ventures, RERA said the purpose of the project – profit or not – was irrelevant. "Even non-profit promoters come under RERA if they sell real estate," the authority noted.

Dismissing the BDA's claim that its projects were government welfare schemes rather than profit-oriented ventures, RERA said the purpose of the project — profit or not — was irrelevant. "Even non-profit promoters come under RERA if they sell real estate," the authority noted.

"The BDA's reliance on being a 'Welfare Authority' is misleading. The fact that BDA undertakes welfare schemes or subsidised allotments does not exempt it from statutory compliance when it sells plots. RERA ensures transparency, accountability, and time-bound development," the order stated.

Directing compliance, RERA instructed the BDA to register the NPKL project and furnish details such as layout approvals, sanctioned plans, development status, financial disclosures, and other relevant project documents.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Kannada & Culture Department: Veeravanithe Onake Obavva Jayanti; Inauguration by Siddaramaiah, Basavaramananda Swamiji, DK Shivakumar, Shivaraj Tangadgi, Uday B to attend; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 6 pm.

Vachana Jyoti Balaga: Amma-90, Parvathamma Shivalingaiah Pandit's 90th birthday, song singing, book release, homage to Amma; inauguration by Siddalinga Swamiji; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli, from 9 am onwards.

Dalit Sangharsh Samiti Organisations Joint Forum: Resistance conference against RSS; Participants: Mavalli Shankar, Guruprasad Keragodu, V Nagaraj, Indudhara Honnapura, N Venkatesh, N Muniswamy; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumarakrupa Road; 10.30 am.

Minority Welfare Department: National Education Day; Inauguration by Zameer Ahmed Khan, Madhu Bangarappa to attaend; Devaraj Arasu Bhavan, Vasanthnagar; from 11 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Santhavani' film festival: Tyagayya (Telugu/1946); V Nagayya, B Jayamma; ESV auditorium, Bharathiya Vidya Bhavan, RC Road; 4 pm.

Rashtrothhan Sahitya: 37 Days of Literature-Cultural Festival; Keshav Shilpa Hall, Kempegowdanagar; from 6 pm onwards.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	17.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Nov 11)	5:51 pm
Sunrise (Nov 12)	6:16 am
Moonrise	10:47 pm
Moonset	11:08 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Association of E-City firms launches mobility wallets to promote public transport

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Electronics City's corporate entities are encouraging employees to use public transport through National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)-compliant prepaid wallets.

On Monday, the Electronics City Industries Association (ELCIA) launched Orbit Wallet RuPay prepaid cards for employees of member companies, in collaboration with Toyota Mobility Foundation (TMF) and WRI India.

Designed specifically for ELCIA, the NCMC promotes sustainable commuting by enabling users to pay seamlessly for public transport and other eco-friendly modes. The card currently supports the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) and will soon extend to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) services.

Srinivas Alavilli, Fellow, Integrated Transport, WRI India, said the initiative aims to encourage corporates to shift from private vehicle incentives such as free parking and fuel reimbursement to public transport rewards.

"To encourage more people to use the metro, we have preloaded 250 cards with Rs 1,500 as a first-time initiative. The cards will be issued on a first-come basis. Once usage patterns are studied, companies can create policies and issue the cards directly," he said.

Santhana Gopala Krishna, Deputy Manager (Finance), Aurigene Oncology, said corporate employees share the responsibility of easing congestion and reducing pollution. "Look at the corporate crowd every morning — most vehicles carry single occupants. This behaviour must change, and incentivising public transport can help. If one card enables seamless travel across all systems, it will benefit many," he said.

On Monday, the Electronics City Industries Association (ELCIA) launched Orbit Wallet RuPay prepaid cards for employees of ELCIA member companies, in collaboration with Toyota Mobility Foundation and WRI India. PHOTO: WRI

Innovative ways to nudge commuter behaviour

Orbit Wallet is one of four winners of the Station Access and Mobility Program (STAMP), launched by WRI India, ELCIA, and TMF in collaboration with BMTC and BMRCL in April 2025.

The programme seeks scalable solutions to boost metro usage, especially in last-mile connectivity.

The other winners are Tummoc, an intra-city commute app; Weebee, a commute-based gaming platform; and Nippon Koei, which studies employee commuting behaviour.

Companies under ELCIA can adopt any of these to promote public transport.

Activist group condemns assault on trans woman, demands swift action

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Movement for Gender and Sexual Pluralism (MGSP) held a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, condemning the brutal assault, kidnapping, and forced tonsuring of a 24-year-old transgender woman, Sukanya.

Terming the attack part of a disturbing pattern of violence within the gender minority community, MGSP state co-chairperson Vaishali said Sukanya's life was saved only due to the prompt intervention of civil society organisations on October 31.

"This is not an isolated incident," Vaishali said. "Similar attacks on trans women by senior members of the community have taken place in Doddaballapur, Vijayapura, Mysuru, and Kalaburagi in the last two years."

MGSP member Monica mentioned the erosion of the 'hijra gharana' system, once founded on trust and compassion. "Some senior members of the community are beating and tonsuring others for money and power. Violence and atrocities are increasing," she said.

Rajesh Srinivas, another MGSP member, presented a five-point charter of demands for the state government and police: speedy and transparent probe into the attack on Sukanya; action to ensure her safety; coordination between the Karnataka Police, Department of Women and Child Development, and community organisations to prevent such violence; expansion of livelihood opportunities for sexual minorities through special recruitment, entrepreneurship, and skill development; and provision of safe, inclusive and affordable housing.

The MGSP urged authorities to address both Sukanya's case and the wider issue of safety and security for the gender minority community in the state.

Siddaramaiah to inaugurate 'Kala Loka' at KIA today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate 'Kala Loka: Treasures of Karnataka', an exclusive Karnataka pavilion at the Domestic Bay of Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Tuesday.

The pavilion has been conceived as a tribute to the state's rich artisanal legacy, bringing together a wide array of Karnataka's Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products and popular institutions such as Mysore Silk by Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation, Mysore Sandal Soap and Oil by Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited, Mysore Rosewood Inlay from Karnataka State Handicraft Development Corporation Limited (Cauvery), Silk and Handloom Sarees from Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation, leathercraft from LIDKAR, specialty coffees from the Coffee Board, Barware, and Channapatna Toys.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Industries Minister MB Patil will also attend the event.

B'luru-Nilakkal Volvo bus service

BENGALURU, DHNS: KSRTC will introduce a new Volvo bus service between Bengaluru and Nilakkal (Pampa-Sabarimalai via Mysuru, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Angamaly, Kottayam and Erumalai).

The service will depart from the Shanthinagar Bus Station at 1.50 pm and reach Nilakkal at 6.45 pm. The return service will start at 6 pm and arrive at Bengaluru at 10 am.

BMTC launches temple tour package

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has introduced a new tour package covering various temples in the city on weekends and public holidays.

The bus operator launched Divya Darshana–5A, an air-conditioned service, on November 8.

The service starts at the Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) at 8.30 am and ends at the same place at 7.45 pm.

It covers Sri Nageshwara Temple, Begur; Sri Kote Thimmaraya Temple, Bettadasanapura; Sri Madduramma Temple, Huskur; Sri Varadarajaswamy Chowdeshwari, Narayanaghatta; Sri Sushil Dham-Jain Temple, Guddatti Gate; Sri Bhoo Varaha Swamy Temple, Mugalur; Chikktirupati; Sri Shaneshwara Swamy Temple, Gunjur; and Sri Jaganatha Temple, Agara.

The fare is Rs 550 per adult and Rs 400 per child. Visit www.mybmtc.com or www.ksrtc.in.

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PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION
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e-Procurement (Very Short Tender Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-17/2025-26 1st Call
e-Tender Ref No:–RCD/PID/RANCHI/17/2025-26 Date:-10.11.2025

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for the Construction of Railway Over Bridge(ROB) (TB2, TU-81882) at Karandih to Parsudih under Jamshedpur block, East Singhbhum District in Jharkhand *Only Empanelled consultant with RCD under category-II vide letter No. 3063(S) WE Dated 22.08.2022are allowed to bid.
2	Period of Completion of Work	90 Days
3	Tentative Length of ROB	1.50 KM
4	Cost of Tender documents & Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender documents is Rs. 5000/(Non-Refundable) EMD:- The quotationers have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 20000.00 (Twenty thousand only) as Earnest Money. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering(https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/)
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	12.11.2025,5:30 PM
7	Online Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	19.11.2025, 12:00 NOON
8	Date and Time of Bid opening	20.11.2025, 12:30 PM
9	Bid validity	120 days
10	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division,RCD, Ranchi, Mob No.-9471650883

Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted. Further details can be seen on e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/).

Executive Engineer,
Planning & Investigation Division,
Road Construction Department, Ranchi.

PR 365710 Road(25-26)#D

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving
Saint Claire's Prayer
May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified & loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever. Amen, Ask St. Claire for three favours too impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for nine days, with a lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not publish on the ninth day. You request will be granted no matter how impossible it is
- J. Vijaya

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The Kannada Department of Seshadripuram Institute of Commerce and Management organised the 70th Karnataka Rajyotsava on November 4. The chief guest was Purushottam Bilimale, Chairman, Kannada Development Authority. The event was presided over by Wooday P Krishna, honorary general secretary, Seshadripuram Educational Trust. Governing Council Chairman KP Narasimha Murthy, principals GK Manjunath and Vidya Shivannavar, Kannada HoD Asha G, and Profs Lakshminarayana and Satyamangala Mahadeva were present at the event.

Purple Cup showcases power of inclusion through golf

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nonprofit EnAble India hosted the fifth edition of the Purple Cup, an inclusive golf tournament, on Thursday.

Launched in 2021, the Purple Cup uses sport to build awareness and empathy and aims to bring persons with disabilities into mainstream golf, promote golf for persons with vision impairment, and encourage corporates to drive inclusion beyond workplaces.

It has introduced over 120 people with vision impairment to golf and nurtured a growing community of inclusive golfers through the Purple Academy at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA), a release said.

This year's edition brought together 104 golfers, including four persons with vision impairment, one person with autism, eight juniors and eight caddies. Fourteen participants with vision impairment took part in the Golf Clinic, while 44 players engaged in the Putting Range experience.

Prem Muniyappa emerged as the winner in the Gross category with a score of 34 points. In the 0–9 Gents category, Saif Mehkri and Dayamay Tiwari both scored 37 points. The Ladies category saw Rina Lenka and Arpitha Shaji KS securing 36 and 35 points, respectively.

In the 10–18 Gents category, Nitin Chowdhary topped the leaderboard with 45 points, followed by Ashutosh Majeshwar with 36 points. The 19–24 Gents category was won by Nandan S, a golfer on the autism spectrum, who scored 37 points, and Avinash Sosale came second with 35 points. In the Caddies category, Saravana won with 30 points.

Other prizes included John A (1 ft 9 in) for Straightest Drive (2nd Hole), Prateek Jalan (10 ft) for Closest to Pin (15th Hole), and Mahima (288 yards) for Longest Drive (9th Hole), the release added.

Participants at the fifth edition of Purple Cup. This year's edition brought together 104 golfers.

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Dating app friend robs techie of Rs 6.89L in valuables from Indiranagar hotel

Police say woman identified, will be arrested soon

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A 26-year-old software professional was allegedly duped of gold ornaments and cash worth Rs 6.89 lakh by a woman he befriended on a dating app.

The victim, Cheluva (name changed), a resident of Nagasandra, told police he had met a woman named Kavipriya through the dating app 'Happn' two months ago. After chatting for a few weeks, they decided to meet in person.

On November 1, Kavipriya invited him to a restaurant in Indiranagar. After spending some time together and consuming alcohol, she said it was too late to return to her paying guest accommodation and asked him to book a room at a hotel for the night.

They checked into a hotel around 12.30 am. After ordering food online, the woman allegedly gave him water laced with a sedative. He soon lost consciousness.

When he regained consciousness hours later, he found that his gold jewellery and cash were missing, and the woman had vanished. Attempts to contact her failed as her phone was switched off and her Happn profile deleted.

The stolen valuables included a 28-gram gold chain worth Rs 3.22 lakh, a 30-gram gold bracelet worth Rs 3.45 lakh, a gold-plated watch worth Rs 12,000, and Rs 10,000 in cash.

Cheluva, initially reluctant to approach the police, filed a complaint on November 8 after consulting a legal expert.

Based on his complaint, Indiranagar police have registered a case of theft and cheating. Efforts are under way to trace the suspect using phone call records, food delivery app data, and CCTV footage from the hotel, where she had provided her identity details during check-in.

A senior police officer said the suspect had been identified and would be arrested soon.

Exotic wildlife, ganja worth Rs 1.04 crore seized at airport

BENGALURU, DHNS

Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) arrested two persons for smuggling multiple exotic wildlife species from Bangkok on November 9.

A husband-wife duo—Mansoor, 42, and Khairunnisa, 35, from Kerala — were caught smuggling a northern white-cheeked gibbon, a capuchin monkey, four Visayan hornbills, and two Javan mynas. They arrived in Bengaluru on Thai Airways flight TG 325, which landed at 11.42 pm. They have been booked under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Customs officials said the seized animals will be repatriated to Bangkok authorities.

In a separate incident the same day, officials arrested another passenger arriving from Bangkok for carrying 2.99 kg of hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 1.04 crore.

The passenger was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, Bengaluru Customs said in a social media post.

14-year-old girl found dead at home; cops rule out foul play

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 14-year-old girl was found dead at her residence in Chamarajpet on Sunday evening, police said on Monday.

On Saturday, her parents and sibling left for a temple visit in Tamil Nadu. The girl, a Class 9 student at a local school, stayed home with her grandmother as she had an exam scheduled for the next day.

Around 3.30 pm on Sunday, her grandmother left the house briefly. She returned in the evening to find the main door locked from the inside. After receiving no response, she asked neighbours for help to open it.

Inside, they found the girl unresponsive. Police were alerted, and the body was sent for autopsy.

No foul play is suspected. An Unnatural Death Report (UDR) has been registered.

Police make 19th arrest in Biklu Shiva murder case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has made another arrest over the murder of history-sheeter Biklu Shiva.

Ajith, who was absconding, is the 19th person to be arrested in the case. He was arrested in Ramamurthy Nagar on Monday morning, police sources said.

Forty-year-old Shivakumar, also known as Biklu Shiva, was brutally murdered near his house on Meanee Avenue Road, Bharathinagar, on July 15.

The BJP's KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj is one of the suspects in the case and has been questioned twice.

A total of 11 suspects were arrested by the Bengaluru police, including the five who initially surrendered, claiming responsibility for the crime, before the case was handed over to the CID for further probe.

Man found dead at home; suicide suspected over domestic issues

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 28-year-old man was found dead at his house in Hosakerehalli, police officials said on Monday.

The deceased, Gagan Rao, worked at a private bank in the city and had married a woman named Meghana nearly eight months ago.

Preliminary probe revealed that Rao and Meghana often had disagreements regarding domestic matters. This is one line of inquiry in the investigation, police said.

After Rao's death, his sister filed a complaint with the Girinagar police naming Meghana.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆಯ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

ಇಂದು ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯ ಭಾರತದ ಮೊದಲ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವ ಭಾರತ ರತ್ನ ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಅಬುಲ್ ಕಲಾಂ ಆಜಾದ್ ಅವರ ಜನ್ಮದಿನ. ಭಾರತದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನವನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರ ಕೊಡುಗೆ ಅಪಾರ. ಅವರ ಜನ್ಮದಿನವನ್ನು ದೇಶಾದ್ಯಂತ "ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ದಿನ" ಆಚರಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಗೌರವಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

"ಹೃದಯದಿಂದ ನೀಡುವ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವು ಸಮಾಜದಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿ ತರಬಹುದು"
– ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಅಬುಲ್ ಕಲಾಂ ಆಜಾದ್

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ದಿನ – 2025
"AI ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ"

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.11.2025 ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ: ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಭವನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಘನ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ:
ಶ್ರೀ ಮಧು ಬಂಗಾರಪ್ಪ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರೌಢ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವರು

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ:
ಶ್ರೀ ರಿಜ್ವಾನ್ ಅರ್ಷದ್,
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು,
ಶಿವಾಜಿನಗರ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿತರು:
ಶ್ರೀ ನಸೀರ್ ಅಹ್ಮದ್,
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ರಾಜಕೀಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು

ಡಾ. ಪುರುಷೋತ್ತಮ ಬಿಳಿಮಲೆ,
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಕನ್ನಡ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ನವೀನ್ ರಾಜ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.,
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಹಜ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಕ್ಫ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೀಲಾನಿ ಮೊಕಾಶಿ,
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ಮಿನ್ಹಾಜ್ ನಗರದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸತಿ, ವಕ್ಫ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪ ಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಝಡ್. ಜಮೀರ್ ಅಹಮದ್ ಖಾನ್

ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ:
ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ.ಝಡ್. ಜಮೀರ್ ಅಹಮದ್ ಖಾನ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಸತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಕ್ಫ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಚಿವರು

ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಉಚಿತ | ಗೃಹ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ 200 ಯೂನಿಟ್‌ವರೆಗೆ ಉಚಿತ | ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಿಂಗಳು 10 kg | ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ₹2000 | ಯುವನಿಧಿ ₹3000 | ₹1500

"ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಯ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ರಕ್ಷಿಸುವುದು".
– ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

Video impact: Govt forms high-powered panel to examine lapses in prisons

Command centre to monitor CCTV feeds from prisons

BENGALURU, DHNS:

Home Minister G Parameshwara on Monday said the government has formed a high-power committee to prepare a comprehensive report on the state of prisons across Karnataka.

The panel will be led by ADGP (Law and Order) R Hitendra. He will be assisted by IGP Sandeep Patil, SP Amarnath Reddy and SP Rishyanth. The decision to form the committee came after the row over some inmates allegedly receiving VIP treatment inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru.

"District Magistrates and SPs of the respective districts will also be members of the committee. Not only Parappana Agrahara Central Jail, but all the prisons across the state should also be inspected and a comprehensive report should be submitted. We will issue the terms of reference for this purpose. Based on the report, action will be taken to dismiss or suspend those involved in the incident," Parameshwara said after a high-level meeting. The report is to be submitted within a month.

G PARAMESHWARA
Home Minister

"Steps will be taken to double all types of technical equipment, including baggage scanners, in prisons. The Cabinet has approved Rs 2 crore for installing CCTVs in prisons.

Parameshwara also said the NIA report on the "VIP treatment" was discussed in the high-level meeting and it will be included in the committee report. The NIA had sought an explanation from the state Home department on how a terror suspect gained access to phones. Sources said terror suspect Juhad Hameed Shakeel Manna was technically sound and could hack into jammers. The Home minister said a command centre will be set up to monitor the CCTV feeds from all prisons at the headquarters.

"A system will be made for senior officers, DG or ADGP Prisons, to monitor (prison activities). This will have to be done in 15 days. Before this, a technical audit will be conducted. Further, a technical team will be set up to ensure jammers won't affect the residents living around the jail premises," he said.

The minister further said the Cabinet has approved funds for developing security infrastructure in prisons. "Steps will be taken to double all types of technical equipment, including baggage scanners, in prisons. The Cabinet has approved Rs 2 crore for installing CCTVs in prisons. The Cabinet has also approved Rs 15 crore for installing ten towers. Instructions have been given to immediately call for tenders and start the works."

Parameshwara said it has been decided to immediately transfer officers who have worked in the same prison for five years.

On the recruitment front, the minister said permission has been given for the recruitment of 197 warders, 22 instructors and three assistant superintendents. A proposal has been received for the recruitment of 983 warders and 17 jailers, and action will be taken in this regard.

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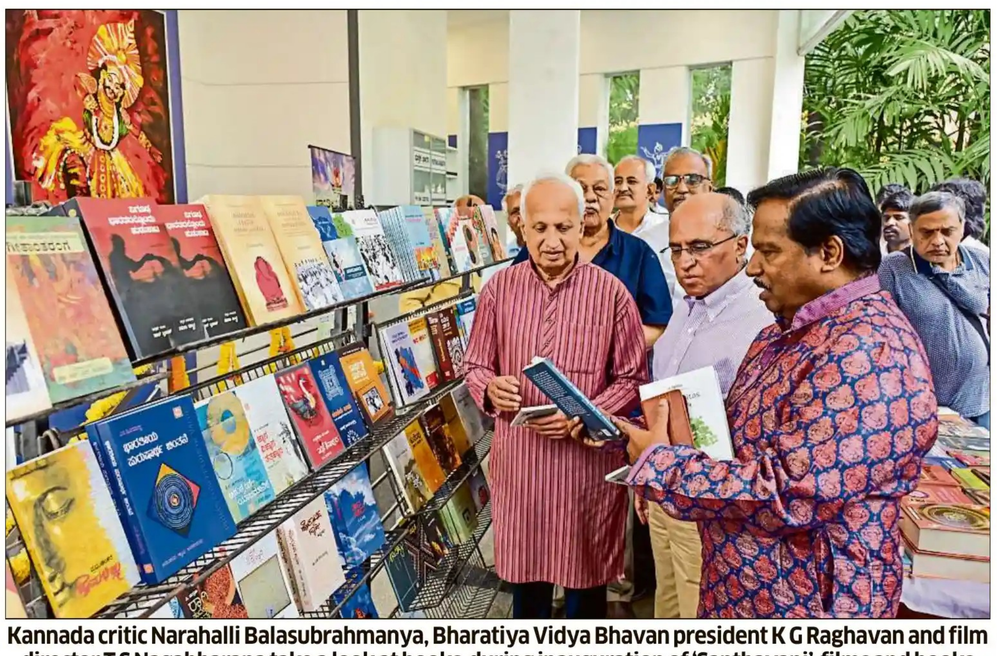
In Loving Memory of

Mrs. Beaula Kalyana Sundari Bai
DOD: 11.11.2019
In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. In our hearts you hold a place no one else will fill. Love you dearly ma. Miss you every moment.
With lots of love
From your daughters Reena and Shirley
Your loving husband Mr. M Samraj
Granddaughter and Son in law.



Kannada critic Narahalli Balasubrahmanya, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan president K G Raghavan and film director T S Nagabharana take a look at books during inauguration of 'Santhavani', films and books exhibition at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G

Bhavan's 'Santhavani' celebrates Indian poet-saints

BENGALURU, DHNS

A five-day 'Santhavani' film festival dedicated to Indian poet-saints and spiritual thinkers was inaugurated at the ESV auditorium on Race Course Road in Bengaluru on Monday. Hosted by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), the event took off with the classic devotional film, Bhakta Kanakadasa (1960), starring Dr Rajkumar.

National Awardee Film Director, T S Nagabharana, leading the inauguration, questioned the contemporary trend of assigning community labels to spiritual figures. "Didn't Kanakadasa say, kula kula kulavendu hodedadadiri (Don't fight over caste, caste, caste)?" he said. He lamented the state of modern cinema, stating, "Today cinema has become a marketplace, not a responsible cinema anymore." He contrasted this with his own work, asserting, "My film Santha Shishunala Sharifa which is going to be screened here was a responsible film."

Kannada critic and columnist Narahalli Balasubramanya, who inaugurated an accompanying book exhibition-cum-sale, expressed concern over the spiritual climate. He stressed the need for role models for children, urging temples to establish libraries to encourage reading. He also called on industrialists like Shiv Nadar or Nandan Nilekani to donate generously to Kannada books and literature, arguing that the modern world is "devoid of emotions," with everybody focused on pleasure and comfort.

K G Raghavan, Chairman of BVB, echoed the call for unity in his address. "We are all islands at the top, but connected at the bottom. Let's celebrate our diversity and respect differences of opinion," he said.

Films to look out for at 4 pm in the ESV auditorium

- Tuesday: **Tyagayya** (Telugu/1946)
- Wednesday: **Sant Tukaram** (Marathi/1936)
- Thursday: **Santha Shishunala Sharifa** (Kannada/1990)
- Friday: **Meera** (Hindi/1947)

VIP treatment in jails: BJP protests, leaders detained

CCB questions Central jail inmate

BENGALURU, DHNS

The police on Monday detained senior BJP leaders including Leader of Opposition R Ashoka and BJP state president B Y Vijayendra after they held a protest against alleged VIP treatment in state prisons.

Police detained the leaders near the Race Course Road who were planning to lay a siege to the chief minister's residence.

The issue came to the fore last week after videos of notorious criminals, including serial rapist Umesh Reddy and terror suspect Juhad Hameed Shakeel Manna, using smartphones and enjoying alleged preferential treatment inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru emerged. Another video showed inmates drinking alcohol and dancing inside the premises.

Meanwhile, officials from the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police on Monday questioned Dhanveer Gowda, a close aide of Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, jailed at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Sources told *DH* that the Parappana Agrahara police have an FIR in this regard and have sought technical assistance including retrieving data from mobile phones, from the CCB. They questioned Gowda to ascertain whether he was the one who leaked the videos from prison. So far, nothing substantial has been found, sources said.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka speaks during a BJP protest against the alleged VIP treatment for criminals in prisons, in Bengaluru on Monday. State BJP president B Y Vijayendra, leaders C T Ravi, Ashwath Narayan and others are seen. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Ashoka seeks NIA probe

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka has urged Home Minister G Parameshwara to order a probe by the National Investigative Agency (NIA) into the alleged irregularities in the Parappana Agrahara jail in Bengaluru.

"Recent revelations indicate that several accused and undertrial terrorists lodged in these facilities are being granted access to mobile phones and electronic devices, enabling them to communicate outside the prison walls," he charged.

Stating that this was not a routine law and order failure but a "direct national security threat," Ashoka sought an NIA investigation and criminal prosecution of prison officials or external facilitators involved in enabling such breaches under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, UAPA and relevant laws.

Blast in Delhi: Karnataka police put on high alert

PRAJWAL D'SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

Following a major explosion in Delhi that killed at least eight people and injured dozens, the police force in Karnataka has been put on alert.

Top sources confirmed to *DH* that MA Saleem, Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), has issued directions to his officers.

"All district headquarters have been put on alert, including Bengaluru City with Metro stations and other sensitive areas," the top sources said.

According to sources, Bengaluru police have heightened the checks, especially in the entry points across 11 police divisions in the city.

Apart from vehicle checks, additional security is also in place in Metro stations, bus terminals and key structures in the city, sources said, adding that similar measures have been taken in other districts, too.

The high-intensity explosion took place in what is now said to be a slow-moving Hyundai i20 car near the national capital's iconic Red Fort on Monday evening.

The incident has sent shockwaves across the country, with the Centre mobilising major investigating agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), to probe the incident.

CM speaks to top cop

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that he has spoken to higher officials of the Police Department to beef up security across Karnataka. He said that following the Delhi blast, he spoke to DG&IGP and Commissioners of Police of Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Siddaramaiah

More dangerous criminals are in Vidhana Soudha than in prison: HDK

BENGALURU, DHNS: Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Monday said that there were more dangerous criminals and terrorists sitting inside Vidhana Soudha than those housed in the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison.

He was reacting to the videos of prisoners getting 'royal treatment' which went viral recently on various social media platforms.

"It is shameful that jail staff are providing royal treatment to prisoners. Terrorists are not only in prison, but more dangerous criminals are in Vidhana Soudha. When terrorists are sheltered inside the Vidhana Soudha, what is the point in discussing about terrorists inside the Parappana Agrahara?" Kumaraswamy said.

Labour ministry campaign to enrol employees left out of EPF

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced the Employees' Enrolment Campaign (EEC) 2025 to provide employers a one-time opportunity to voluntarily enrol employees previously left out of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and allied schemes.

The campaign commenced on November 1, 2025, and will conclude on April 30, 2026. The aim is to enrol employees who joined between July 1, 2017 and October 31, 2025, but were not enrolled into the EPF scheme. The campaign is limited to employees working with the organisation on the date of declaration.

Employees' share of the contribution for the declared period will be waived, provided it was not deducted from their wages earlier. Employers are liable to deposit only their own share of contributions, along with interest and administrative charges. The penal charges are capped at Rs 100 for each defaulting establishment, covering compliance across three schemes (EPF, EPS and EDLI).

No suo motu action will be taken in respect of employees who exited prior to the declaration, provided all eligible existing employees are declared and no dues remain unpaid for any past or present employees whose share was deducted.

Employers declaring employees or registering afresh under this campaign will also be eligible for benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana. To participate, employers must generate a face authentication-based Universal Account Number (UAN) for each declared employee through the UMAN app.

The declaration must be filed online through the EPF portal, linking the Electronic Challan-cum-Return (ECR) with a Temporary Return Reference Number (TRRN). Multiple declarations are not allowed, said a press release issued by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-1, Bengaluru (Malleswaram).

Activist seeks guv's permission to prosecute Tangadagi

▶ BENGALURU, DHNS: An activist has written to Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot seeking permission to have Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi prosecuted for submitting "false" information on his wife's assets while filing an affidavit for the Legislative Assembly election from Kanakagiri constituency in 2023.

According to the activist Dinesh Kallahalli, Tangadagi's affidavit declared ownership of 22.26 acres of agricultural land. However, based on RTC, mutation, encumbrance and revenue records, his wife Vidya Tangadagi owns 39.13 acres of agricultural land in Kakkaragola village, Siddapura hobli, Karatagi taluk.

Kallahalli has urged the governor to exercise his constitutional powers and grant sanction for prosecution and permit the filing of a private complaint against Tangadagi in the court.

Priyank slams RSS, asks if saffron outfit 'bigger than God'

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Monday continued his attack against the RSS, saying that the sources of income of the saffron outfit "must" be declared as per the law.

Speaking to reporters, Priyank said: "In our country, public charitable trusts, charitable trusts, public temples, privately held temples and each and every donation has to be accountable.

This is a country where there are accounts for money given to God. Are they (RSS) bigger than God?"

"If I start an organisation like this as (a) body of individuals or (an) association of people, call it guru dakshina and seek funds, will the same Income Tax (IT dept) agree?"

The minister took severe exception to RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat's claims on Sunday that the RSS had not registered in 1925 since the British were ruling then, against whom the then RSS Sarsangchalak (K B Hedgewar) was "fighting at that time."

"It will be ok if they speak with some common sense. Hasn't the Indian Constitution come after that? What were they doing since 1947? Did we ask them to register under the British? There were colonial laws, which were changed and came under the Constitution. When everyone registered, why didn't they register? They are not registering because they will then come into the tax ambit and will be asked questions."

Priyank had written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a ban on RSS activities on government premises.

DH Classifieds

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE
In order to make Indian Farmers globally competitive, M/s Rich Phytocare Pvt Ltd., brings you following 100% Water Soluble Mixture Fertilizers as per order dated Gazette Notification no S.O.1909(E) dated 28th July 2014, issued by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Karnataka.

Sl No	Products
1	NPK 18:18:18
2	NPK 20:28:15
3	NPK 12:00:44
4	NPK 11:44:11
5	NPK 08:24:24
6	NPK 05:25:34
7	NPK 15:15:30
8	NPK 15:30:15
9	NPK 10:10:40
10	NPK 00:42:42
11	NPK 00:37:37
12	NPK 00:46:50
13	NPK 00:33:65
14	NPK 18:46:00
15	Urea Phosphate 17:44:00

Important Properties:
• 100% Water Soluble Mixture Fertilizers • Enhances & Improves Agri Produce Quality & Yield.
• Suitable for Fertigation & Foliar application. • Available Packings are 25kg & 1kg.
Supply & Sales of these WSF products will be done after 30-35 days of publish of this notice.
Manufactured, Imported, Packed & Marketed by:
M/s Rich Phytocare Pvt Ltd.,
No 5, 2nd stage, 14th cross, Peenya Industrial Area Bangalore 560058
Phone – 9611021111
Mail-richbangalore01@gmail.com

PERSONAL

Change of Name

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Radhamani M, residing at Door No. 49 & 3/4, 2nd Floor, First Building Veeranna Badavane, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 024, have changed my name to A REBECCA vide affidavit dated 27.10.2025 before notary G Ravichandra Reddy. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called A REBECCA only

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Syed Sarvath Ulla S/o Syed Hussain, R/at No. 512, Shivakumar Swamijinagar, Doddi Palya Main Road, Agra Grama, Kengeri, Gollahalli, Chudenapura, Bengaluru-560 060, have changed my name to SYED SARWATH ULLA vide affidavit dated 04.11.2025 before notary Vedavathi T.D. Channapatna Taluku.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PRIYA JIJESH PETER, residing at # 3C Block 1, Amulya Park, 5th Main Road, NRI Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru -560 016, have changed my minor daughter's name from Anushka K Thampi to ASHLYN ROZANNE PETER vide affidavit dated 10.11.2025 before notary K.C. Chowde Gowda, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, JAGADISH K. S/o Late P. Krishnappa, R/a Jyothipura Village, Mandur Post, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore-560 049 I declare that my name all the records as JAGADISH K. But in my Passport wrongly mentioned as JAGADEESHA in Future my name should be JAGADISH K. only. vide affidavit dated 10-11-2025 Sworn before Notary Manjunath T. Bangalore.

KARNATAKA ANTIBIOTICS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
(A Govt of India Enterprise)
Regd. & Corp. Office: Arka The Business Centre, Plot No. 37, NTTF Main Road, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
Online Tenders are invited by KAPL to Transport Medicines from Bangalore to All State Capitals of India, District Head Quarters of Karnataka & Bangalore Local through surface mode (Road/Rail/Courier). Reputed Transporters may submit offers for Normal & also Temperature Controlled (2 to 8°C) Vehicles separately. Details of Terms and Conditions are available in Website:www.kaplindia.com/ www.tenderwizard.com/kapl Due Date for submission of tenders is on 01.12.2025 upto 23:59 hrs.

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Available for any startups companies And Existing Running companies Available for Manufacturing Units, Shops, Establishments Etc Contact- 7204995189

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd.
Bengaluru

I, SHIVASHANKAR GOWDA S.P, aged 27 years, S/o. Prakash S.H, residing at No.36/1, 11th Cross 1st stage, 1st Main, Police Station Road, Indiranagar, Bengaluru- 560038. I state and declare that, as per the prevailing records my name is Shivashankar Gowda S.P. Accordingly, in all my Educational Certificates, Identity Proofs, Banking accounts and other Government records my name is denoted as Shivashankar Gowda S.P and all records also indicate the same, have changed my name from Shivashankar Gowda S.P to SAMANTH GOWDA S.P, vide affidavit dated:2/9/2025 sworn to before Chandrashekaraiah.S Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Devi Priya, residing at # 3C Block 1, Amulya Park, 5th Main Road, NRI Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 016 , have changed my name to PRIYA JIJESH PETER vide affidavit dated 10.11.2025 before notary K.C. Chowde Gowda, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called PRIYA JIJESH PETER only

I, G. JYOTHILAKSHMIKAR REDDY residing at Bengaluru-64 have changed my name as G. JYOTHI LAKSHMIKAR REDDY, vide affidavit dated 10/11/2025 before Notary K.S.Bammappanavar, Bengaluru

Labourer gored to death by wild jumbo in Kodagu

MADIKERI, DHNS: A labourer was gored to death by a wild elephant at Emmegundi plantation near Palibetta of Virajpet taluk, Kodagu district, on Monday.

Hanumantha (57), a native of Ramanathapura near Hassan, is the deceased. He suffered severe injuries on his chest and abdomen after the tusker attacked him.

Hanumantha was working in a private coffee plantation for the past 30 years and was living in a line house.

He was deployed by the plantation owner as an elephant tracker.

The incident occurred when he was warning other labourers about the presence of elephants. His co-labourer managed to escape from the jumbo attack. A case has been registered by Siddapura police station.

Forest officers visited the spot. An immediate compensation of Rs five lakh was handed over to the family.

Namaz at Bengaluru airport: BJP questions Congress govt

Priyank puts onus on airport to enforce rules on prayers

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Opposition BJP on Monday slammed the Congress government for "Muslim appeasement" after a group was seen offering Namaz at Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport.

The BJP asked the government to clarify if permission was granted for Namaz at the airport, juxtaposing this with the Congress' insistence that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) should seek clearance for its activities in public places.

"How is this even allowed inside the T2? Did these individuals obtain prior permission to offer Namaz in a high-security airport zone?" BJP spokesperon Vijay Prasad asked in a tweet, tagging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

"Why is it that the government objects when the RSS conducts Patha Sanchalana after obtaining due permission from the concerned authorities, but turns a blind eye to such activities in a restricted public area? Does this not pose a serious security concern in such a sensitive zone?" Prasad said.

A group of Muslim men offer prayers outside Terminal 2 of the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru.
PHOTO: @VIJAYRPBJP/X

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka called it a "Siddaramaiah-sponsored" incident.

"This government is doing Muslim appeasement. There's simply no regulation," he said. Reacting to this, Priyank said the airport should enforce rules governing prayers.

"All international airports have prayer rooms. At Delhi and Gujarat airports, Garba (dance) was performed. An airport, whether privately-run or state-owned, has rules for prayers. Airport authorities should enforce them," Priyank said.

Priyank also questioned the BJP on why it opposed the government's order mandating prior permission for activities in public places.

"When we said nobody should hold activities in public places, why did BJP oppose it? Our order would have covered everyone. When we said that the public shouldn't be inconvenienced, why did RSS move court and obtain a stay?" he said.

R ASHOKA
Leader of Opposition

"It's a 'Siddaramaiah-sponsored' incident. This government is doing Muslim appeasement. There's simply no regulation.

RGUHS to roll out Kannada course for students from other states

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to teach students from other states the fundamentals of Kannada language, the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) is rolling out a 'Basic Kannada Learning Course' for its students.

The varsity is framing the syllabus for the course, and a note laying down all the guidelines for the course will be circulated among all the affiliated colleges soon.

"Proficiency in Kannada will help the students while practising medicine in the state given that they will be able to communicate more easily with their patients," said RGUHS Vice-Chancellor Dr Bhagavan B C.

The initiative was illustrative of the varsity's commitment to furthering Kannada, said the RGUHS VC.

"We take pride in advancing medical education and doing our bit for community health. At the same time, we are also committed to preserving and promoting the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of Karnataka," said Dr Bhagavan, adding that furthering the cause of Kannada was both a cultural and intellectual responsibility.

Besides rolling out a course in Kannada language, RGUHS is set to issue an order mandating use of Kannada in official correspondence. Furthermore, the publishing arm of RGUHS – Prasaranga – has taken on the task of publishing medical books in Kannada.

'Teach foreign languages'

Given that medical professionals – doctors and allied healthcare workers – are in huge demand the world over, RGUHS, in association with the Bengaluru City University's (BCU) Department of Global Languages, will offer lessons in foreign languages to its students.

German, French, Italian, Japanese are among the languages that will be taught to students pursuing medical, dental, nursing and allied health science courses at the university. BCU and RGUHS are slated to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to impart foreign language lessons to the varsity's students. Steps are also being taken to establish a 'Foreign Language Lab' at the university.

M Krishna Reddy replaces GTD as JD(S) core committee chief

BENGALURU, DHNS

Former minister and senior JD(S) leader G T Devegowda was on Monday relieved of his position as the head of the party's core committee, with former Deputy Speaker M Krishna Reddy being appointed in his stead.

An order confirming the change was issued by JD(S) Karnataka president and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy. Meanwhile, Arkalgud MLA A Manju has been appointed convener of the party's core committee.

Devegowda's lack of involvement in party activities over the past year has been a source of discontent within the JD(S), with many leaders calling for his removal as the head of the core committee. In October, party leaders asked Kumaraswamy to restructure the core committee. Although MP Mallesh Babu's name was floated as a possible replacement, he reportedly refused the offer.

Krishna Reddy had resigned as Deputy Speaker of the Assembly in 2020 when BJP MLAs were planning on moving a motion of no-confidence against him.

The JD(S) also named a new head for its ten-member disciplinary committee, which will now be headed by former legislator D Nagarajaiah. The publicity committee, which boasts 16 members, will now be headed by former MLA Y S V Datta.

Meanwhile, new members have been inducted into the JD(S) co-ordination committee with a view on the upcoming Greater Bengaluru Authority elections.

Core committee convener has been entrusted the additional responsibility of heading the co-ordination committee. The co-ordination committee has been tasked with strengthening the party in each GBA ward, besides taking charge of voter registration.

HC issues SOP to streamline care, rehab of child sex abuse survivors

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka has issued an indicative Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the protection and rehabilitation of minor victims of sexual offences, after noticing several cases where victims and their families were not informed about the procedure for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP).

Justice Suraj Govindaraj stated that the indicative SOP will remain in force until the authorities frame one based on expert advice.

The court noted that the indicative SOP will provide a clear and predictable pathway — from the moment an offence is first reported, to the complete and successful rehabilitation of the survivor — eliminating procedural ambiguity, reducing delays and preventing interagency friction.

"To ensure rapid implementation and technological robustness, the state government shall operationalise a mandatory, secure, cloud-based Digital POCSO Portal (DPP). This portal is not a standalone system but an integrated layer that leverages the established infrastructure of the national eCourts Mission Mode Project (Phase III). It will serve as the single, authoritative platform for the management of all POCSO cases within Karnataka."

The court said a breach of any critical timeline will trigger an automatic, system-generated escalation alert via SMS and official email to the designated supervisory authority. It also issued guiding principles of the SOP to ensure immediate medical care and forensic evidence to engage a trained clinical psychologist or psychiatric social worker, trauma-informed care, therapeutic jurisprudence, zero-delay mandate, confidentiality and privacy by design.

The court noted that as survivors of sexual assault, minor victims are eligible for termination of pregnancy up to a gestational age of 24 weeks. "If the pregnancy has advanced beyond 24 weeks, termination is permissible. In such cases, the hospital, through the CWC, must approach the high court for authorisation within 48 hours. The petition must be supported by a comprehensive report and recommendation from the state-level medical board constituted under the MTP Act. All medical records related to the MTP shall be kept in a sealed, confidential file, separate from the main criminal case file on the DPP, accessible only upon a specific order of the high court," the court said.

A 13-year-old victim had approached the court seeking termination of her pregnancy. A friend of her uncle had sexually assaulted her. The court permitted termination of pregnancy and directed the authorities to preserve the foetus for the purpose of DNA testing and analysis in the criminal proceedings, which are pending.

The matter has been ordered to be relisted on December 13 for consideration of the report to be filed in pursuance of the general directions.

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBBALLI - 580021.
Ph : (O) 0836-2373348, Fax :0836-2373724
No.: KMC&RI/Adhoc/198/2025-26 Dated : 10-11-2025

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-interview will be conducted, applications are invited for **Assistant Professor** posts for various department on contract basis. Interested and eligible candidates may apply.

Qualification, experience and other details are available on website: **https: //kmcrihubballi.karnataka.gov.in/english**

Sd/- Director,
Karnataka Medical College & Research Institute, Hubballi

National Urban Health Mission
Bangalore City Health & Family Welfare Society ®
GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Chief Health Officers (PH), Annex Building-2, G.B.A Head Office, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
NATIONAL URBAN HEALTH MISSION

No:CPMO/NUHM/PR/P-70/2025-26 Date: 10.11.2025

NOTIFICATION

The applications are invited from eligible candidates through walk in process for appointment of Vacant posts completely on contract basis in various positions for a period of 1 year for RCH programme (Children Health) National Blindness control, NUHM and IDSP of National Health Mission programme.

Sl No.	Programme Name	Name of the Post	No Of Posts	Education Qualification	Salary / Month	RESERVATION	Walk in place, Date and Time
1	RCH (CHILD HEALTH)	PAEDIATRICIAN	03	DM Neonatology, Fellowship in Neonatology, MD Paediatrics, DNB (Child Health)/DCH. KMC Registration Certificate. **Age limit:** 18 to 60years First Preference will be given upto 45 years	1,10,000/-	SC-CAT-A-OTH-1 GM-OTH-1 ST-OTH-1	PLACE: CPMO office, Annex-3 building, 3rd floor, GBA Head Office, NR Square, Bengaluru-02. Date: 15.11.2025 Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm
2		STAFF NURSE	15	GNM/ Bsc Nursing with KNC Registration Certificate. **Age limit:** below 45 years	18,714/-	SC-CAT-A-OTH-1 SC-CAT-B-OTH-1 SC-CAT-C-OTH-1 GM-OTH-2,GM-F-2 GM-RURAL-2, GM-PH-1,ST-OTH-1, CAT-1-OTH-1 2A-OTH-1,2A-F-1 2B-OTH-1	
3		COUNSELLOR	03	Master Degree, MSW & Degree in Psychology/Child Development/Home Science. First preference given to Lady Candidates. **Age limit:** Not to exceed 60 yrs, First Preference will be given upto 45 years	19,208/-	SC-CAT-A-1 GM-OTH-1 ST-OTH-1	
4	NPCB	OPHTHALMIC SURGEON	01	MS/MD (MCI recognized) in Ophthalmology, Minimum 1 year experience after PG Course. DOMS (MCI recognized), 2 years experience after PG Course. **Age limit:** Not to exceed 45 yrs	1,10,000/-	UR	
5		OPHTHALMIC ASSISTANT	04	2 yrs Diploma course in Ophtometry OR Ophthalmic training in recognized Govt Hospitals as per NPCB&VI as Ophthalmic Assistant Compulsory pass in Computer Basic Course **Age limit:** Not to exceed 45 yrs	18,181/-	SC-CAT-A-1 GM-OTH-1 GM-F-1 ST-OTH-1	
6	IDSP	DISTRICT EPIDEMIOLOGIST	01	(1). MBBS graduate with Post Graduate Degree/Diploma in preventive and Social Medicine/Public Health OR Epidemiology (such as MD, MPH, DPH, MAE etc) OR (2).MBBS Graduate with 1 year experiences in Public Health OR (3).Any AYUSH/ Dental Sciences Graduate with MPH (Masters in Public Health) with 1year experience in Public Health OR (4).MSc in Life Sciences with MPH (Masters in Public Health) with 2 year experience in Public Health OR (5).M.Sc (Epidemiology) with 1 year experience in Public Health. Should be proficient in Computer skills and Kannada language **NOTE:** Qualification obtained through regular/full time. programs are preferred. Qualification obtained from recognized university of India are preferred over those obtained abroad and the applicants must submit a certificate from the Nation. Board of Certification, verifying that their Degree is equivalent to the one specified in the TOR **Age limit:** 45 years or below (in exceptional cases age upto 60 years may be considered)	30,000/-	UR	
7	NUHM	DISTRICT M&E MANAGER	02	Master Degree in Statistics/ Mathematics/Demography/ Economy/B.E. Information Science/ B.E. Computer Science Minimum Experience required: 1 year experience in the field of Data Management and analysts. Preference to be given experience in Health Department. **Age limit:** Not to exceeds 45 yrs	30,000/-	SC-CAT-A-1 GM-OTH-1	
8		RADIOLOGIST	05	MD Radiology or DMRD **Age limit:** Not to exceeds 65 yrs	1,10,000/-	SC-CAT-A-1 GM-OTH-1 GM-F-1 ST-OTH-1 CAT-1-OTH-1	
9		PHYSICIAN	04	MD in Medicine **Age limit:** Not to exceeds 65 yrs	1,10,000/-	SC-CAT-A-1 GM-OTH-1 GM-F-1 ST-OTH-1	

Knowledge of Kannada language **must** for candidates. Aspirants may download the application form available in GBA website. After filling the application with two copies of checklist and original documents pertaining to education, a self attested xerox copy and two recent photographs may attend walk in process at the above said address and date. GBA reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of posts. For more details visit Greater Bengaluru Authority Website **www.bbmp.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

'Vote chori': DKS submits 1.12 cr signatures to AICC chief

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Karnataka Congress president and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Monday handed over 1.12 crore signatures collected from the state as part of the campaign against 'vote chori' (vote theft), claiming that the misuse of institutions be stopped.

Congress had initiated a campaign to collect five crore signatures from September 15 against 'vote chori' to be handed over to President Droupadi Murmu. While the first phase ended, the Congress has asked its state units to continue with the campaign for another week.

Handing over the signatures at the Indira Bhavan, he told reporters that party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had got the issue probed and found large-scale irregularities in Mahadevapura Assembly constituency in Karnataka.

He also met Kharge earlier in the day.

Asked about the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, he claimed that the Election Commission has admitted themselves and it is clear that there is misuse of office.

Govt set to take over 108 emergency services by next Feb

Department to procure 175 new ambulances, recruit EMTs

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health and Family Welfare Department is all set to take complete control of the 108 ambulance services by February 2026. In order to focus on the efficiency of the services, the department is planning on conducting a test to recruit Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) present in the ambulance.

The technicians are present in the ambulance during the transit and provide first aid medical services to the patients.

Speaking about this initiative to *DH*, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "This is to test their capability, it is important that these technicians are able to provide the necessary services under pressure."

"For the first time in the country, such an initiative is being taken up, we are ensuring that there will be no compromise in emergency services," said Rao. The department will be procuring new 175 ambulances from the Road Safety Authority to facilitate smooth functioning. "The ambulances procured in 2018 are the highest in number of vehicle breakdowns so we will be bringing in new ambulances to provide treatment in time," said Dr Prabhudev Gowda, Deputy Director, Emergency Management and Research Institute.

The ambulances will be equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal, a tablet device which will help the technicians and drivers to locate the patients and nearby hospitals.

The devices will also help in integrating the ambulance services with e-Sanjeevini, a national telemedicine service. Through this, the doctors from the hospital can give directions to the EMTs and the hospital will be given an intimation about the arrival allowing them to make necessary arrangements.

The ambulances will be equipped with a Mobile Data Terminal, a tablet device which will help the technicians and drivers to locate the patients and nearby hospitals. DH FILE PHOTO

Command control centre

The command control centre with over 250 human resources will be equipped with 112 NGERSS software by C-DAC. The software will enable the call dispatchers to locate ambulances, patients and nearby hospitals.

"To bring in more efficiency, the ambulance nearby will be allocated to the patient and immediately be taken to the nearest hospital. Currently, we have geo-tagged all the government hospitals in the software, we are awaiting details from Karnataka Private Medical Establishment to geo-tag private hospitals as well," said Dr Gowda. The team has also conducted a pilot study of the system with Chamarajanagar district and it has become successful. "We are able to dispatch ambulances without any glitches or delays," he added.

For fleet management, the department will be recruiting different agencies in each district to outsource ambulance drivers to ensure transparency.

DINESH GUNDU RAO
Health minister

"This (test to recruit EMTs) is to test their capability, it is important that these technicians are able to provide the necessary services under pressure.

Maternal deaths down by 24% this yr: Health minister

BENGALURU, DHNS

The maternal deaths in the state have gone down by 24% compared to the previous year, said Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister for Health and Family Welfare. In 2024, 483 maternal deaths were reported till October and this year 366 deaths have been reported till October.

The department is deploying two gynaecologists, anaesthetists, paediatrics and radiologists at all 147 taluk hospitals and 42 Community Healthcare Centers (CHCs), where more than 30 deliveries take place every month, and these centers will be considered as Comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care centers (CEmONC). In district-level hospitals four gynaecologists, four anesthetists and two pediatrics will be deployed.

The doctors will be sourced from the underperforming CHCs. A total of 200 CHCs are considered low-performing centers and among them 162 CHCs have recorded zero deliveries this year. Staff nurses at underperforming Primary Healthcare Centers (PHCs) will be transferred to high-performing centers.

The department has created posts for 104 radiologists and 23 physicians. Every CHC will either have a paediatrician or physician and two other MBBS doctors for efficient functioning.

Additionally to provide advanced care, 125 super-specialist posts including Cardiologists, Nephrologists, Neurologists and many more are being created under the Compulsory Medical Service Scheme across 15 district hospitals. To maintain the discipline and efficiency of the staff, the department has made it compulsory for the staff to record attendance through mobile based videos every morning and evening.

Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, said, "The department is also asking for video attendance randomly during the working hours to ensure that the doctors are in the hospitals."

Speaking about the measures, Rao said the measures are being taken to increase the trust of people in the public healthcare system. "65% of the deliveries happen in government hospitals and 35% in private hospitals, we want to reach 90% especially outside Bengaluru," said Health Minister.

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Chikkaballapura
Land Line : 08156-295427 Fax : 08156-295427 E-Mail –eemidcbpura@gmail.com

No : EE/MID/Cbpur/TA/PQ Tender Notification/ 1829 / 2025-26, Date :-10/11/2025

Short term tender Notification No: 14/2025-26/Dtd: 10/11/2025

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Chikkaballapura has invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Procurement for the work in one cover system for the 01 number of work. The tender procedure as per Rule of KTPP Act and standard tender document KW-6 shall be followed. Scheduled tender processing fees as per KPP-Portal procedure. Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** starts from **Dt:10/11/2025 04:30 PM.** Last date of uploading PQ tender documents upto Dt: **24/11/2025 04:30 PM.** Pre bid meeting **Date:14/11/2025 @11:30 AM** at **Office of the Superintending Engineer office, M. I. & GWD, Jayanagar 4th block BDA complex, 3rd floor, Bengaluru.** Opening of technical bid **Dt: 26/11/2025 @ 11:00 AM.** The Executive Engineer reserves the right to make any changes in above details in future if needed. For more details can be obtained from the office of the under signed on all working days during office hours and also through website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without giving any reason.

Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Chikkaballapura.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08/2025-26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.10.2025

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-I, II & III ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **17.11.2025**ರ **16.30** ರವರೆಗೆ. (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.11.2025**ರಂದು **4.35** ನಂತರ. (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.11.2025**ರಂದು **11.35** ನಂತರ. (4) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ): ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:245/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani - 591304. Taluk: Athani, Dist: Belagam.

No:KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/Overhauling/2025-26/2590 Date: 07-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders in Electronic mode on "Percentage Basis" are invited on behalf of the **Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru,** by the **Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani** in Two Cover System **(Cover-I and Cover-II),** from the eligible tenderer **Transformer Manufacturer / Transformer Service.**

The details of the works are listed below. The tenderers are required to submit bid in Two Cover System as per Standard Bid Document of KC-6.

The contractors are expected to apply in Two Cover System (as per KTTP Act 2000) i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kpp-portal/index.seam** under H.B.C. Division, Athani. **(Total 1 Works)**

The Approximate Estimated Cost of Work is Rs. 68.99 Lakhs

1) The contractor can request for e-Tendering Documents: **from 11-11-2025 at 10.30 AM to 18-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries: **15-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 3)** Last Date for Submission of Completed e-Tendering Document: **from 11-11-2025 at 10.30 AM to 18-11-2025 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division, Athani: **20-11-2025 at 11.00 AM. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid at EE, KNNL, HBC Division: **After Approval of Technical Bid.**

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on Telephone: **08289-251034** and H.P company helpline: **080-22485867.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KNNL, HBC Division, Athani.

DIPR/Belagavi/1282/Adverto/2025-26

HOSKOTE PLANNING AUTHORITY
Mission Hospital Road, 1st Cross, Sri. Venkatadri Layout, Hoskote - 562114, Bangalore rural District.
Phone / Fax: 080-27934470 / 27935412.
E-mail: hosakote.pa@gmail.com URL: www.hoskote.tpa.gov.in

No: HPA/Scanning And Digitilization 01/2025-26 Date: 06-11-2025

NOTICE

"e-Tender notification for Scanning and Digitilization of All Record and Files at of Hoskote Planning Authority has been published in e-Procurement Portal of GOK. For details visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**"

Sd/-
Joint Director of Town & Country Planning & Member Secretary,
Hoskote Planning Authority, Hoskote.

DIPR/CP/3698/Adverto/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavana, No.43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560025
Phone: 080-29533679, email: kswc.eng@gmail.com, Website:www.kswc.karnataka.gov.in

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Call-03)

The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore has invited the tender for:

No: KSWC/ENG/217/F-03/2025-26 Dated: 10.11.2025
Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the Development of Cold Storage and Temperature Controlled Warehouses at across 19 Location in Karnataka.

The last date for receipt of proposal is on **25.11.2025 upto 5.30 PM.** The opening of Technical Bid is on **27.11.2025 at 4.30 PM.** The details are available in our website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during working hours and also at Website. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For any clarification contact Executive Engineer KSWC (9916981818/9740675654)

Sd/-
Managing Director, KSWC

DIPR/CP/3691/CCL/2025-26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560020.

Date: 07-11-2025

Issued in Public Interest

For the Kind Attention of Allottees of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL)

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) hereby informs the allottees and general public as follows:

1. Project Status:

About 2,800 acres (76%) of development work in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout has been completed. The remaining works, such as asphalting, street lighting, and cable laying in the already developed area, are intended to be completed by March 2026. The remaining development work, approximately 1,064 acres, is under litigation and will be done as and when BDA gets possession, with completion intended by October 2026. The M.A.R. (Major Arterial Road) is intended to be completed by January 2026.

BDA is conducting weekly progress review meetings every Wednesday at 3:00 PM in the Board Room regarding the work in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. Interested site allottees can attend these meetings to learn about the development work by registering via the BDA helpline No. 94831 66622.

2. Public Grievance Redressal:

Allottees can also participate in the West Zone Open House Meeting, which is held at the BDA Head Office on the fourth Thursday of every month.

3. Advisory:

It has come to the notice of the BDA that some associations / organizations formed by a few allottees in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout are trying to use the BDA's name in membership drives.

BDA clarifies that it does not recognize any group or association or organization claiming to represent BDA or its layouts.

For authentic information and updates, citizens are requested to rely only on official BDA communication channels. For any issues or clarifications related to Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, citizens can contact the BDA Helpline (Ph: 94831 66622). Grievances will be resolved within 30 days.

24x7 Helpline: **94831 66622**
Website: **www.kbda.karnataka.gov.in**

Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore.

J&K cops bust major 'white-collar' terror module

Terror module, from Page 1

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Srinagar, Dr Sundeep Chakravarthy, the investigation began on October 19, when posters bearing JeM insignia were found pasted across the Bunpora-Nowgam area on the outskirts of Srinagar. "The clues gathered during the local inquiry pointed to an organised network operating beyond Jammu and Kashmir," he said

The arrested persons included two Kashmiri doctors — identified as Dr Muzamil Ahmad Ganai, a Pulwama native serving in the emergency department of Al-Falah Hospital in Faridabad, and Dr Adeel Rather, a resident of Qazigund who worked at a private hospital in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

A woman doctor, identified as Dr Shaheen, was arrested from Lucknow. An AK-47 rifle was recovered from her car, officials said. She was brought by air to Srinagar for custodial interrogation.

Besides the doctors, a mosque cleric and others were arrested. They are suspected of providing logistical and financial support to militants based in Pakistan.

Sources said one of the doctors had rented a flat in Faridabad that served as a storage and assembly site for improvised explosive device (IED) components. The recovery included ammonium nitrate, sulphur, aluminium powder, remote-control circuits and timers, along with a Chinese Star pistol, a Beretta handgun and two assault rifles. The police also found laboratory-grade reagents and measuring equipment, indicating systematic preparation for large-scale blasts.

"The operation was the culmination of three weeks of surveillance, involving multiple agencies across states," said another police official. "It has prevented potential mass-casualty attacks."

Preliminary investigation by the police suggested that the network received instructions from handlers in Pakistan through encrypted messaging platforms. Investigators are now probing whether the arrested doctors were involved in radicalisation or were used for cover and logistics. The seized explosives were enough to power multiple high-intensity blasts, capable of causing devastation on a large scale. Senior security officials said the recovery points to the possibility of a major terror plot being foiled, one that could have targeted the National Capital Region (NCR) or other strategic sites in north India.

"This is not a routine recovery — it suggests deep infiltration of terror logistics networks extending beyond J&K. The use of medical professionals as facilitators adds an alarming dimension," a senior police officer told *DH*.

(With inputs from Lucknow)

9 killed, 20 injured in Delhi car blast

Delhi blast, from Page 1

The explosion was so powerful that it shattered windows of vehicles parked metres away while the sound of the blast was heard at ITO, which is 4 km away from the spot.

A video shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association showed a body lying on a vehicle while another showed a mutilated body on the road. Eyewitnesses said body parts could be seen scattered near the blast site.

Officials said the incident near the Gate No 1 of the Red Fort Metro station led to other four-wheelers and rickshaws catching fire in which several people were injured and rushed to nearby Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital where at least nine people were declared dead. Twenty people were injured.

Shah briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the incident besides speaking to Golcha and other top anti-terror unit officials in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and National Security Guards (NSG), which has the expertise in post-blast examination.

Delhi police's anti-terror unit Special Cell, forensic unit, dog squad, NIA and NSG personnel rushed to the spot. More than a dozen fire tenders were rushed to the spot with officials saying at least 20 vehicles were damaged in the incident. Soon after the blast, Delhi was put on high alert even as police remained tight-lipped about the nature of the explosion. The explosion came hours after huge quantities of ammonium nitrate were recovered from Faridabad, a satellite town of Delhi.

Surveillance has been enhanced at Delhi's border with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as well as at railway stations, bus stations and Delhi Metro premises among other vital installations.

DNA test can't be employed as instrument of speculation: SC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday said, scientific procedures, including DNA profile, however advanced, cannot be employed as instruments of speculation. They must be anchored in demonstrable relevance to the charge and justified by compelling investigative need.

"Section 112 of the Evidence Act embodies a legislative policy of profound significance, it stands as a bulwark against the casual illegitimisation of children on the strength of unsubstantiated allegations or mere suspicion," a bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Vipul M Pancholi said.

The court emphasised, the presumption it creates is not a procedural formality to be lightly displaced but a substantive safeguard intended to protect the dignity, social legitimacy, and the legal rights of children born within wedlock.

The court set aside a Madras High Court's direction of May 10, 2017, to a doctor to give blood sample for DNA test for investigation of a cheating FIR lodged by a married woman alleging he was the father of a child, born in 2007 during the subsistence of her marriage with another man.

The bench, however, said, "Forcefully subjecting an individual to DNA testing constitutes a grave intrusion upon privacy and personal liberty. Such an encroachment can be justified only if it satisfies the threefold test of legality, legitimate State aim, and proportionality."

Examining his plea, the bench said, the statutory presumption under Section 112 of the Evidence Act remains unrebutted, and the child continues to be, in the eyes of the law, the legitimate offspring of another man, the husband of the woman-complainant.

The court noted the woman has not indicated any circumstance even remotely, suggesting that her husband was physically absent during the relevant time when the child could have been conceived. The child's school documents consistently declared her husband to be her father.

"Mere simultaneous access does not negate the husband's access, nor does it suffice to displace the statutory presumption under Section 112 of the Evidence Act," the bench said.

The court found no insufficiency of evidence to dislodge the presumption of legitimacy. The child was born during the subsistence of a valid marriage, it said.

Tigress, 3 cubs rescued

MYSURU, DHNS: Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre on Monday said that a five-year-old tigress, which reportedly attacked domestic animals after straying out of the forest, and its three cubs had been rescued by the Forest department officials. The tigress was rescued near Kallahalli under Bandipur tiger reserve, he said in a press release.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over Coastal and North Interior Karnataka and dry weather prevailed over South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Nov 11: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	28	11.2	00
Bidar	27.8	12	00
Vijayapura	28.2	11.8	00
Dharwad	28.4	12.6	00
Haveri	29.8	12.8	00
Kalaburagi	31	16	00
Raichur	29	15	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	33.8	18	00
Karwar	35.4	19.2	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.6	23.3	00
INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	NA
Bengaluru	28.9	17.5	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	29	13.6	00
Davangere	29.5	12.5	00
Hassan	NA	NA	NA
Mysuru	30.8	19	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	27.8	13.8	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	28.1	10.4	00
Kolkata	30.5	19.6	00
Mumbai	31.8	19	00
Chennai	31.3	23.9	00
Pune	30.7	13.2	00
Hyderabad	29.2	15.5	00
Th'puram	31.6	21.9	30

COUNTER

"For 20 years, there is Nitish Kumar's government there and they have destroyed Bihar. Secondly, the education system – be it primary or secondary education, university or college education – has been finished off. There are paper leaks happening one after another... they put RSS vice chancellors in universities. The basic structure of education system has been "finished off" in Bihar.

Rahul Gandhi
Congress leader

V/S

Where is Mr Tourist these days?... Heard he went for a tiger safari in Pachmarhi. Rahul Gandhi is a political tourist. Every day confirms that impression about him. "Rahul Gandhi ji, you keep on enjoying your political tourism. You need some rest in the forest of Madhya Pradesh.""

Ravi Shankar Prasad
BJP leader

BY AGE, BY EDUCATION

Total candidates **2,616**

Analysed **2,600**

AGE

25-40 years	908
41-60 years	1,349
61-80 years	339
Above 80 years	4

EDUCATION

1,278 Graduate or above	**1,047** Class V-XII		
34 Diploma holders	**222** Just literate	**17** Illiterate	**2** Not disclosed

(Source: ADR)

Poll diary

RJD seeks gender-wise voter turnout data for Phase 1

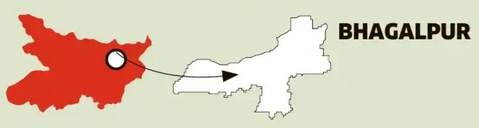
Senior RJD MP Manoj K Jha on Monday wrote to the Election Commission demanding release of the gender-wise voter turnout data for Phase 1 of the Bihar elections and asked the poll body to give in writing an explanation for not doing so.

In his letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the RJD leader said he was writing to express his "deep concern" over the EC's "continued failure" to publish the gender-wise voter turnout for the first phase held on November 6.

EC sources said the overall gender ratio in voter turnout is generally given at the time of final turnout.

Jha said the absence of gender-disaggregated turnout figures also undermines public confidence in the integrity of the electoral system.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



AJEET KUMAR SHARMA
Cong
2020: Won

ROHIT PANDEY
BJP
2020: Runner-up

The dilapidated silence of Orwell's birthplace

In Bihar's Motihari, the renowned author's bungalow mirrors the decay and neglect he once wrote about

ASHISH PANDEY
MOTIHARI, DHNS

The small colonial-era staff bungalow in Motihari, where celebrated English author George Orwell was born more than a century ago, is slipping into ruin — in fact, it already has. Visitors are greeted by peeling walls, broken gates and a stark reminder of official neglect.

For years, locals and literary enthusiasts hoped this modest structure on Motihari's eastern outskirts would be restored as a museum. But as Orwell wrote in Animal Farm, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others." In Motihari, the line resonates differently — among India's heritage sites too, some are clearly treated as more equal than others.

You can't miss the haunting irony at the very entrance. The board proclaiming the site a "protected monument" lies cracked, torn and barely legible.

Eric Arthur Blair, known to the world as George Orwell, author of 1984 and Animal Farm, was born here on June 25, 1903, while his father served in the British opium department. In 2014, Bihar's Art and Culture Department announced plans to restore the bungalow and build a museum. By 2021-22, files had shuffled, and it seemed the department might actually keep its word.

Some repair work and restoration efforts were undertaken, but the situation looks grim again, as the structure has fallen back into neglect with no serious attempts to secure or restore it.

A resident of Motihari, Jitendra Kumar Sharma, told *DH*, "Despite this being a historical site, the government does nothing to save it. Officials come, click pictures and leave without taking any action. Locals have submitted many petitions to government representatives, but no one seems interested in doing anything about it."

The entrance itself bears no signboard to indicate the site's significance. Only in the backyard of the compound does one find a bust of George Orwell accompanied by a six-foot-tall stone inscription. Beyond that, the rooms stand in perilous disrepair. Visitors enter at their own risk, with the danger of debris falling from above or the chance of encountering a snake.

Speaking about the 2014 restoration plan, a tea-seller nearby recalls, "There was so much excitement when they made the announcement, but soon we tasted the reality. It's not that the place lacks visitors. I see people coming here, sometimes even foreigners. But the local administration seems blind to its importance."

For a man who wrote so piercingly about truth and corruption, the neglect of his birthplace stands as a sad truth in itself.

Surprisingly, there is no permanent guard. Locals say a caretaker once managed the site, but for the past few years, no one has been assigned. In his absence, the compound is left open to trespassers, garbage and even grazing cattle.

Amid the din of campaigning for the Bihar elections, the dilapidated structure stands in mute hope that someday, someone will heed its silence.

FORGOTTEN MONUMENT

- The colonial-era bungalow in Motihari is crumbling into ruin
- Visitors encounter peeling walls, broken gates at the 'protected monument'
- A 2014 plan promised restoration and a museum, but little changed
- Locals complain officials only click pictures and leave

With no guard or caretaker, the compound is open to trespassers, garbage and grazing cattle. DH PHOTO

Crucial final-phase showdown in 122 seats today

Over 3 crore voters to decide fate of 1,302 candidates

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Bihar election enters its second and final phase on Tuesday, with voting scheduled in 122 Assembly constituencies across 20 districts.

Polling for 121 seats was conducted on November 6.

The concluding phase will determine whether the NDA or the I.N.D.I.A bloc forms the government in the state for the next five years.

The Election Commission has deployed 1,625 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) across Bihar, as many of the constituencies going to polls share borders with three states and Nepal to the north.

The deployment includes personnel from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Aurangabad shares its boundary with Uttar Pradesh in the west, Maoist-affected Gaya borders Jharkhand in the south, Kishanganj and Araria adjoin West Bengal in the east, while Champaran stretches up to Nepal in the north.

"This is precisely why borders have been sealed until voting concludes at 6 pm on Tuesday," said an IG-rank official.

BIHAR VOTES

The final phase of the election is crucial for both the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc, with the Mahagathbandhan seeking to consolidate its numbers in Muslim-dominated constituencies such as Katihar, Araria, Purnia and Kishanganj. However, a dent by Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM in these districts could upset the alliance's prospects.

The BJP, meanwhile, has recently raised the issue of infiltration but has been occupied with clarifying whether Nitish Kumar, the NDA's only credible face, will continue as chief minister after the polls.

The Mahagathbandhan, which began its campaign late and appeared divided, eventually put its house in order and focused on two major issues: jobs and migration, which were also raised by Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor.

However, Kishor lost momentum midway when he announced he would not contest the election.

In 2020, both the NDA and I.N.D.I.A bloc secured 37% of the vote, separated by just 0.03%. This election too is poised on a knife's edge.

SECURITY BLANKET

- 1,625 CAPF companies deployed across border districts
- CRPF, BSF, CISF & ITBP on ground; borders sealed till 6 pm
- Even 1% swing could flip the outcome in high-stakes contest

Polling officials click a selfie as they leave for their respective polling booths, a day before the second and final phase of Bihar Assembly elections, in Jehanabad on Monday. PTI

NDA spent Rs 30 cr on choppers, Oppn Rs 10cr

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The skies, buzzing with helicopters carrying politicians for the last month, have now fallen silent in Bihar.

With the whirlwind campaigning for the second and last phase of the Bihar Assembly elections ending on Sunday, the helicopters and chartered planes, and the politicians they ferried, are now grounded.

Sources said helicopters flew for 1,600 hours in both phases of the campaign. The cash-rich NDA reportedly took helicopter rides for 1,200 hours, while Mahagatbandhan leaders flew for 400 hours.

"It roughly comes to an average of Rs 3 lakh per hour per helicopter to hire. This includes GST charges. Around Rs 11 lakh was spent on each helicopter each day," said an aviation source on Monday.

"As per a rough calculation, the NDA spent Rs 30 crore on helicopter rides and chartered planes, while the Opposition Mahagatbandhan forked out Rs 10 crore," added the source.

"Single-engine helicopters carrying four passengers cost around Rs 1.5 lakh per hour," noted the source, adding that of the 25-odd choppers used on a daily average from Patna during campaigning, 15 were for the BJP, two each for the Congress, RJD, and the JD(U), and the remaining were for smaller players like the LJP (R), HAM, Tej Pratap Yadav's party, and others.

Sources said the leaders flew to Patna from New Delhi and other states on chartered flights and then boarded helicopters at the Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport here in the state capital.

BJP ally chief predicts good show for Oppn

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

The BJP was left red-faced after the president of its alliance partner, the Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP), and Uttar Pradesh minister Om Prakash Rajbhar, on Monday said that the high voter turnout in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly polls indicated that the 'Mahagathbandhan' might return to power in the state.

"My research shows that the RJD has benefited whenever the voting percentage has risen above 60," Rajbhar said. The SBSP is contesting on six seats in the Bihar Assembly elections. Rajbhar and his sons, Arun and Arvind, have addressed several election meetings in Bihar where they criticised the Nitish Kumar government.

At a time when NDA leaders have been making claims of a landslide victory in Bihar, the statement from one of its own constituents not only came as an embarrassment for the BJP but also provided ammunition for the opposition to attack the saffron party.

The SBSP, which commands considerable influence over the Rajbhar (an OBC) community — present in sizable numbers in several eastern UP districts — may hurt the NDA in Bihar if it succeeds in weaning away the Rajbhar voters there.

The second and final phase of voting in Bihar will take place on Tuesday.

Over 9,500 join Cong in Assam

GUWAHATI, DHNS: The Congress in Assam on Monday said nearly 9,500 members, including some from the ruling BJP joined it, something which the Opposition party saw as a push in the run up to next year's Assembly elections.

The programmes were organised in all districts, from Dhubri, Goalpara, Bongaigaon and Kamrup in western Assam to Morigaon and Nagaon in central Assam to eastern Assam's Jorhat, Sivasagar, Charaideo and Dibrugarh. Similar joining took place in North Assam districts like Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Sonitpur.

Lok Sabha member from Dhubri and former minister Rakibul Hussain attended the programme in Dhubri. Addressing a similar programme at Philobari in Tinsukia district, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) President Gaurav Gogoi attacked the BJP-led government, alleging that the general public was being "crushed under coal syndicates, sand syndicates, supari (betelnut) syndicates, and illegal tax."

CHANGING TIMES

More women in fray for Kerala local body polls

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

The upcoming local polls in Kerala reflect a major push towards gender and social inclusion, with women expected to play a pivotal role in governance.

More than 50% of the 23,576 wards are reserved for women in this poll.

As Ajanya S Aji form Malayankeezhu in the suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram turned 21 on November 6, the CPM workers heaved a sigh of relief as she attained the minimum age for contesting the local body election before the date for filing nominations.

Ajanya, who is an activist of the Students Federation of India and a third-year degree student, is the LDF candidate at Thachottukavu ward in Malayankeezhu panchayat.

As many as 13,000 wards are reserved for women. It includes over 12,035 general wards, 1,022 reserved for scheduled caste women and 142 reserved for scheduled tribe women. Around 600 chairperson posts of local bodies are also reserved for women.

Volunteers of the Haritha Karma Sena (HKS) who are involved in door-to-door garbage collection, retired teachers and other government employees are among those being wooed by political parties.

According to an official of the Haritha Keralam Mission that manages the HKS volunteers, who are around 35,000 in numbers across the state, in the 2020 election also some HKS volunteers also contested and won.

This year also some HKS volunteers are planning to contest. A clear picture will emerge only when the nominations are filed.

Over the last few years, HKS volunteers are more active in door-to-door garbage collection and hence they are very familiar with their localities.

Hence, they are much sought after. The HKS volunteers are now earning around Rs 14,000 average per month and there are proactive members who earn up to Rs 25,000. So, they may think twice before venturing into local body elections, said the official.

BJP leader Rajeev Chandrasekhar performs rituals during an election campaign for the Kerala local body polls. PTI

Elections on Dec 9 & 11

Elections to 23,576 local-body wards in Kerala will be held in two phases on December 9 and 11. Counting will be on December 13, reports DHNS.

The polls assume much significance as they could set the trend for the Kerala Assembly polls, which are due in a few months.

While the LDF camp hopes that the Pinarayi Vijayan government's welfare measures would help it, the Congress-led UDF and the BJP-led NDA are trying to cash in on anti-incumbency.

Of the around-1,200 local bodies, the LDF is now in power in around 680, the UDF in 405, and the NDA in around 20. The LDF-ruled Thiruvananthapuram corporation, the Congress-ruled Kannur corporation, and the BJP-ruled Palakkad are among the local bodies expected to witness prestigious electoral battles.

Rebels hit BJP, Trinamool ahead of Bengal Assembly polls

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

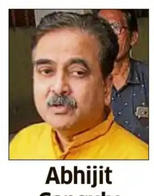
With the West Bengal Assembly elections just a few months away, both the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Opposition BJP in the state have recently been hit by rebellion — by a legislator and a parliamentarian, respectively.

Abhijit Ganguly, a BJP member of the Lok Sabha from West Bengal, has embarrassed the saffron party with a series of media interviews, where he openly asked if the party high command was really keen to pose any significant challenge to the TMC in the state and oust it from power.

He also said that the BJP would not be able to win the Bengal Assembly elections by deploying leaders from New Delhi and other northern states while ignoring competent ones from the state.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC), on the other hand, is staring at the imminent exit of MLA Humayun Kabir — one of the party's key Muslim leaders.

Humayun Kabir



Abhijit Ganguly

Kabir, who was elected from Bharatpur in Murshidabad, launched a tirade against Apurba Sarkar — a legislator from neighbouring Kandi and a TMC district chief — defying the party leadership.

Kabir also vowed to start the construction of a mosque modelled on the Babri Masjid on December 6, commemorating the demolition of the ancient one in Ayodhya.

Leadership upset

The move has upset the TMC leadership, as it might help the BJP step up its Hindutva campaign in Murshidabad, besides lending credence to the allegations against Mamata Banerjee's party and government of appeasing the minority community.

He even dared the TMC high command to expel him from the party.

As for Ganguly, he quit his job as a Calcutta High Court judge to join the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. He contested and won from Tamluk, largely because the state BJP heavyweight and the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, had thrown his weight behind him.

Media interviews

However, he said in several media interviews over the past few days that he had joined the BJP to do his bit to oust the corrupt TMC government, but failed in his mission due to the BJP-led Union government's lack of interest.

He cited the Central government's apparent reluctance to use Article 355 of the Constitution.

Several of Ganguly's orders as a Calcutta HC judge against the TMC government in connection with the recruitment scam had earned him a "crusader against corruption" image.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Surrogacy law calls for nuanced application

The Supreme Court's recent observations on a petition seeking permission to use surrogacy for a second child place law in the context of rights to reproductive choices. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, disallows married couples facing secondary infertility from using surrogacy to have a second child. Exceptions are made only if the first-born child is mentally or physically challenged or has a life-threatening disorder. Secondary infertility is the inability to conceive children after having one or more children; it can be caused by biological or other reasons. The issue before the apex court is whether the restriction in law amounts to a violation by the State of the fundamental right to reproductive choice and personal liberty of citizens. It was contended before the Court that the right flows from the right to life guaranteed under Article 21. What has been challenged is a section of the law that debars couples from availing surrogacy if they have a surviving child, regardless of whether that child was born biologically, through a previous surrogacy procedure, or adopted.

The petitioner contended that the definition of infertility in the Surrogacy Act and the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, was not restricted to primary infertility. It was noted that secondary infertility is a medically recognised condition and the State cannot impose a cap on the size of a family, especially since India does not have a "one-child policy". Existing laws, the petitioner pointed out, allow a couple with a biological child to adopt a second one, making the restriction on surrogacy discriminatory. The government argued that surrogacy cannot be deemed a fundamental right, and that the process involves the use of another woman's body.

Restrictions that impact couples facing secondary infertility warrant a rights-based approach

During the hearing, the judge orally remarked that the restriction imposed under the provision was "reasonable" in view of the rising population, but it also acknowledged the need for nuanced scrutiny that balances personal autonomy with ethical regulation. The restriction of surrogacy terms to one child appears unreasonable and the argument based on population has no legal merit. If the intention is to prevent commercialisation of surrogacy and exploitation of vulnerable women, the restriction does not address these concerns. Rules can be strengthened to prevent such exploitation. The Court recently allowed couples with frozen embryos to proceed with surrogacy even if they are past the stipulated age limit. It has done well in agreeing to examine the larger topic, which is as much a human issue as one of citizen's rights.

A rethink on the coexistence model

Karnataka Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre's decision to temporarily suspend safaris in the Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves is a sensible and measured move. This order aims to redeploy forest personnel and resources for tiger-tracking and capture operations following a series of fatal attacks on humans. The directive sends a clear message that wildlife management and public safety must take precedence over tourism revenue, however lucrative it may be for the state. Man-animal conflict in Karnataka has been intensifying, and not merely because of human intrusion. Paradoxically, the rise is also the result of conservation success, leading to an increase in populations of tigers and elephants across protected areas. As Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Kumar Pushkar has observed, there is no single cause for the recent conflicts: an increase in tiger numbers, coupled with expanding human settlements and agricultural activity extending right up to forest boundaries, has created inevitable friction.

The problem is most acute in certain pockets, particularly along the fringes of Bandipur, Nagarahole, and parts of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan. These areas sit at the intersection of ecological and human pressures. Fragmented corridors, degraded forests, and invasive weeds like lantana have stripped habitats of fodder and water, pushing elephants and tigers towards farms and villages. The pattern is clear: wherever forest quality declines and human activity expands, the potential for conflict increases sharply. While encroachment is often cited as the main cause, the challenge is far more complex. Forest degradation – the gradual erosion of ecosystem quality – has weakened nature's ability to sustain its own populations. The absence of viable buffer zones and the proliferation of unregulated tourism have only compounded the problem. The unchecked growth of resorts, homestays, and vehicular traffic near reserve boundaries disturb wildlife and drive animals out of their natural habitats.

Karnataka must urgently address ecological imbalances that lead to human-wildlife conflicts

Although suspending safaris is a welcome stopgap, it must be a part of the larger response. The government should constitute an expert committee to draw up a holistic strategy that goes beyond firefighting – one that restores degraded forests, revives water sources, and reclaims wildlife corridors. Parallel efforts must focus on technology-based early warning systems, rapid response teams, and community engagement. Karnataka's achievement in reviving its tiger and elephant populations is a conservation triumph. However, unless the state addresses the deeper ecological imbalances that force these animals into conflict, that very success could turn into tragedy. The safari suspension should, therefore, be seen not as an end, but as an opportunity to rethink how humans and wildlife can coexist – safely, sustainably, and with mutual respect.

A GLOBAL BRAND

Big pitch: Cricket as India's soft power

The sport can strengthen diplomatic posture, but can India fix its gaps in equity and infrastructure?

ROHAN QURASHI

Economists call it the Pareto Principle – the fact that most things in life are not perfectly proportional (1/1), where each unit of "input" (effort, time, labour) contributes an equal unit of output. Instead, this rule observes that 80% of results often come from just 20% of causes. For decades, Indian sport has been the perfect case study of this rule. Among the many sports, cricket alone accounted for most of our sporting output – effort, reward, recognition. For India, cricket is more than a game: it is a national obsession, a lucrative industry, a powerful lever for exerting global influence, and an emotional sentiment.

That emotion found its ultimate expression recently, when 50 years on from their debut on the world stage, Harmanpreet Kaur's Indian women's cricket team scripted history at the DY Patil Stadium. Playing their third final after the heartbreaks of 2005 and 2017, India lifted their first-ever ICC Women's World Cup title, defeating South Africa by 52 runs in the final.

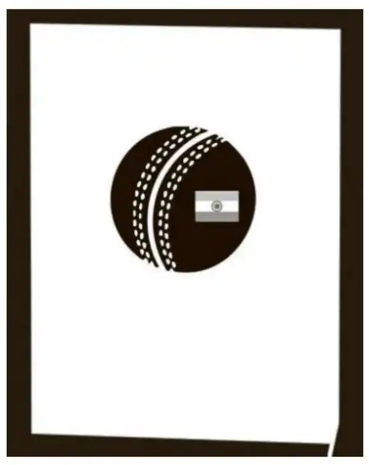
This victory also marks a watershed year for Indian sport. Earlier in Dubai, the men's team had triumphed in the ICC Champions Trophy, clinching their third title. Together, these wins symbolise not just cricketing success, but the coming of age of India's broader sporting ambition.

That ambition extends into policy as well. Inaugurating the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar earlier this year, Prime Minister Modi remarked that India's soft power will increase with the growth of sports culture in the country. He stressed that the government's focus on modernising sports infrastructure aligns with the long-cherished dream of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games – a move that could enhance India's diplomatic posture and global standing.

The belief that success in sport can enhance a nation's image is not uniquely Indian. Around the world, countries – particularly smaller or emerging ones – are investing in elite sports. The underlying conviction is that success in global competitions such as the Olympics or world championships can amplify a nation's soft power. Until recently, however, empirical evidence confirming this link was limited.

In 2020, Dongfeng Liu (International Professor of Sports Management for the Shanghai campus of the Sports Business School) surveyed French citizens to examine how China's Olympic performance shaped their perceptions of the country. His study found that sporting success positively affects perceptions of national power.

Liu noted that countries with controversial political systems often rely on sport to foster goodwill and global



visibility. China, frequently criticised for its human rights record, has used its sporting dominance to strengthen diplomacy – training athletes from African nations like Madagascar and signing partnerships with Kenya to exchange expertise in long-distance running. In doing so, China demonstrates how athletic excellence can move beyond the playing field and evolve into a diplomatic asset.

For India, a democracy with cultural depth and global goodwill, the soft power potential of sport is greater. Cricket, for example, followed by hundreds of millions of people, is a defining part of India's global brand. Its benevolent hegemony has become a source of economic heft, international recognition, and cultural influence.

Money spinner, social leveller

China has even sought India's support to develop cricket in cities like Chongqing, underscoring the sport's expanding diplomatic reach. The Indian Premier League (IPL) vividly demonstrates the immense economic and cultural power of Indian sport. This three-hour cricket spectacle attracts the world's best players with multi-million-dollar contracts, backed by India's vast television audience. In FY 2023-24, the IPL generated Rs 5,761 crore of BCCI's Rs 9,741.7 crore revenue – nearly 60%. Started in 2008, within just 17 years, its business valuation hit approximately $18.5 billion, making it among the richest sports leagues in the world, and putting it in the same financial orbit as the NFL, which generates around $18-19 billion annually.

Yet cricket's true power runs far deeper than its commercial clout. In a country of vast inequalities, it offers an illusion of equality – a rare sense that rich and poor, urban and rural, win and lose together. When the cricketers cry on live television, they make the nation cry too. It is what Benedict Anderson famously described as an *imagined community* – where millions, unknown to each other, momentarily become one. This emotional unity is a form of soft power in itself, shaping how India sees itself and how the world sees India.

But, beneath all the glitter lie serious challenges. Underinvestment in facilities and coaching restricts the country's sporting potential. Addressing this through sustained grassroots funding can ensure talent from every corner of India thrives.

Gender disparity remains another concern. Ranked 131st on the Global Gender Gap Index, India continues to grapple with deep-rooted gender disparities. The country has often been criticised for limited female participation in sports, especially cricket. Yet the launch of the Women's Premier League (WPL), backed by a $500-million investment similar to the one that started the men's IPL, signals a powerful shift.

In a cricket-crazy nation that follows its players on and off the field, athletes like Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, and Harmanpreet Kaur, among others, have become icons of resilience and aspiration – role models who can help move the needle on multiple social issues.

By tackling these structural barriers, cricket in particular can elevate India's soft power. After all, a nation's global image is as much shaped by its victories on the field as by the well-being and equality of its people off it.

(The writer is a research student at St Stephen's College, Delhi. He has previously worked as a research associate with a Member of Parliament)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Batting for Bhojpuri, and other *bhashas*

Our *netas* must master native tongues to deliver impressive *bhaashans*

MINA ANAND

'What are you thinking of, Mina?" asked my husband, coming up to where I sat, deep in thought.

"I am lost in admiration for the Indian Women's Cricket Team," I replied. "Look at their grit, diversity, and talent. They speak in one tongue – that of harmony and commitment."

"Laudable indeed," remarked my husband. "Talking of 'one tongue', our politicians, instead of squabbling over three-language formulas and other such issues, should take a leaf out of our cricket team's book (both men's and women's) and apply that unifying glue."

"That's it, Anand! Languages!" I exclaimed! "Our leaders must take crash courses in the native *bhashas* and astound the public with impeccable *bhaashans*. Bihar is currently in poll mode. When campaigning in this historical land, one also enjoys the traditional food on offer, the famous *Litti Chokha*. However, if the candidate wants the electorate to lap up his offerings, then he must entice them by speaking in the local languages – in *shuddh* Bhojpuri. In one fell swoop, a party could sweep the election."

"Brilliant, Mina," he approved. "Yes, polyglot politicians, intermingling and speaking in the vernacular, would attract the voters' attention and, moreover, be a magnet for inter-regional harmony."

"Exactly," I replied. "There's the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal elections coming up. And Uttar Pradesh thereafter." An ideal opportunity for our political representatives to rush to enrol in study centres, swotting up, for the time being, on three languages – Tamil, Bengali and Hindi. Imagine a scenario where star campaigners from the North electrify the Chennai crowds with faultless Tamil, or those from the South captivate the Hindi heartland with melodious *shairis*, and in Tagore's land, declaim in Bengali with perfect accents."

Anand laughed appreciatively. "This beats the original three-language formula hollow!"

"Our *netas* should follow your father's inspiring example, Mina, of learning new languages throughout one's life. Dad (Air Marshal P V Iyer) is 96. He's lately added Kannada and Telugu to his wide repertoire!"

"Yes," I replied. "Nothing like the Services for discipline and dedication."

"But Mina, who will test the politicians on their newly acquired language skills?"

"The Election Commission, of course," I responded. "There will be a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) on the vernaculars learnt.

Moreover, the candidates, in addition to declaring monetary assets, will now have to also mention the number of languages known, with proof of documents."

"Wow! You have got it all planned out, Mina. Multilingual is the new normal.

There's one snag, however. Politicians could run the risk of..."

"Of what?" I asked.

Anand laughed: "What else! Petitions to the EC – on *Bhasha Chori*!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COP30 must set legally binding emission targets

I refer to 'Climate summit focus on implementation' (Nov 10). As COP30 begins in Belem, Brazil, it is worrying that despite a decade since the Paris Climate Pact, global warming continues to rise, and our collective actions are still falling short. Extreme heatwaves, floods, storms, and wildfires are already affecting millions, especially in developing countries that lack protection and resources. Global greenhouse gas emissions have climbed to a record 57.7 billion tonnes in 2024, an increase of 2.3% over 2023. According to the UN Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap Report 2025, developing nations will need $310-365 billion annually by 2035; however, in 2023, they received a mere $26 billion – barely a tenth of what is required. The summit must set legally binding emission targets, create clear accountability mechanisms, and secure enforceable climate finance.

S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

Kudos to KSRTC

The KSRTC's Dhwani Spandana project, which has won the National Award for Excellence in Urban Transport, is a shining example of innovation with empathy. By introducing assistive audio systems in Mysuru buses, it has made travel safer and more dignified for visually challenged passengers. Such initiatives prove that accessibility is not a privilege but a public right. Other state transport agencies should adopt similar systems to make urban mobility inclusive for all citizens.

K R Gagan, Tumakuru

Curb the crisis

Deaths due to air pollution continue to rise every year, claiming millions of lives. The problem demands urgent action. Proper waste disposal, the use of eco-friendly and biodegradable materials, and large-scale recycling must be prioritised. The government should ensure that factories and industries dispose of waste responsibly, and that electricity replaces coal-based energy wherever possible. Deforestation in rural areas must be discouraged by providing affordable LPG cylinders, reducing reliance on coal, firewood, and cow dung. Strict rules must be implemented in both rural and urban areas, and the government must act transparently.

Anry Haokip, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav practise politics of favouritism...They have treated politics as their inheritance... We follow the principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', we respect every community and take everyone along in development...

Vijay Kumar Sinha, Bihar Deputy CM

If you want to know someone, mute their words and watch their behaviour.

Anthon St Maarten

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Green intent, low capital

India's climate crisis reveals a paradox – ambitious global pledges made without adequate domestic resources

SUDIPTA P KASHYAP

At COP26, India pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 and to source 50% of its energy needs from renewables by 2030. It has been three years since this commitment was made; yet the conversations in policy circles continue to revolve around high ambitions alarmingly underfunded in practice. It is, therefore, safe to say that India's climate transition does not suffer from a lack of intent – it suffers from a lack of capital.

The evidence of a financing gap in this sphere is both visible and severe. According to estimates of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), India needs $10 trillion in investment to meet its net-zero goals by 2070. The current domestic climate finance stands at just Rs 3.5 lakh crore a year, which is less than a fifth of what is required. Additionally, the current green funding flows excessively towards renewables while adaptive sectors such as transport, urban planning, or sustainable agriculture are often ignored. The climate finance in India is heavily tilted toward mitigation, not adaptation, resulting in a misalignment in policy discourse for a country that is deeply vulnerable to floods, heatwaves, and agricultural shocks.

We can typically identify the sources of green financing from the four main pillars that are domestic public finance through budgetary allocations, private sector investments, international climate finance, and philanthropy or blended finance. Each, however, faces persistent roadblocks. While states have low fiscal room left to fund climate resilience, even in ESG investing, Indian firms lag global standards, with limited disclosure and greenwashing concerns. Green bonds in India remain underutilised, despite SEBI's regulatory push. With slow bureaucratic processes and inadequate funding through multilateral organisations, developing countries are left stranded with no accountability from the developed nations for historical emissions.

Despite such challenges and setbacks, there is some hope left. With better climate finance mobilisation through the introduction of a unified taxonomy for green projects and investments, better credit-worthiness of state-level utilities such as DISCOMs, and regulations against greenwashing, which allows companies to rebrand CSR as ESG without any real climate alignment, could go a long way.

However, easing the mobilisation of such funds only solves half of the problem. The core issue of the absence of funds continues to haunt India's climate financing ambitions. India's climate future is not just a matter of policy; it is a matter of money. Green intent must now be matched by green capital. The first step towards realising this goal is to create a National Climate Finance Authority, designed to coordinate, channel, and regulate green funding in the country. A National Climate Finance Authority could act as the nodal body to integrate and streamline India's fragmented climate financing efforts under different ministries.

Ensuring optimal impact

Housed under the Ministry of Finance but with statutory independence, the authority could coordinate with the RBI on climate-related financial disclosures and green bond regulation, while also working with sectoral ministries that handle power, environment, agriculture, and urban development to ensure that funds are directed towards both mitigation and adaptation needs. Such an institution could pool both domestic and international resources, set up transparent and all-inclusive criteria for project eligibility, and reduce duplication across schemes, thereby improving accountability and efficiency in mobilising green capital.

Secondly, the introduction of green budget statements, on the same lines as gender budgeting, can go a long way in tracking expenditure. While SEBI has taken multiple efforts towards impact reporting and promoting green bonds, expanding sovereign green bonds, incentivising state governments with climate-linked grants via the Finance Commission, and pushing for standardised ESG norms and climate stress testing in banks can provide a multi-institutional and multi-stakeholder approach to green financing.

Strengthening climate finance is not just about raising more funds, but also about creating systems that allow data-driven tracking and transparent allocation. This can enable fact-based policymaking and ensure that every rupee of green capital delivers a measurable impact.

Without a radical rethinking of how green capital is raised and deployed across both mitigation and adaptation sectors, the country risks falling into a credibility trap where ambition consistently outruns the capacity to fund and transition to greener alternatives. India must treat climate finance not as a peripheral concern but as its own development strategy. In the end, true climate leadership is about ensuring that promises made on the global stage are backed by adequate resources and institutions that are needed to deliver them domestically.

(The writer is a postgraduate in Economics and has worked across parliamentary offices, think tanks, and development organisations on issues of trade policy, environmental economics, gender, and governance)

Clearing encroachments: Border integrity or demographic fear?

S GERALD JACOB AND KARAMALA AREESH KUMAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's urgent call to clear "illegal religious encroachments" within a 30-kilometre belt along India's international borders has again pushed the debate on national security, minority rights, and local governance into the realm of public discourse. Speaking at a Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) in August 2025, Shah described demographic changes in frontier regions as part of a "deliberate design" and urged firm administrative action against unauthorised religious structures.

From the government's standpoint, the argument is straightforward: securing the borders requires eliminating potential vulnerabilities. Many frontier villages lie in remote, sparsely monitored terrain where unauthorised structures—especially those on State or forest land—can become sites for illicit activity, hidden funding, or illegal crossings. Shah cited Gujarat's experience in removing such encroachments from its land and maritime borders as a model. The move aligns with the VVP's threefold goals: curbing out-migration, achieving full scheme coverage, and transforming border villages into hubs of national security and development.

Strategically, the logic appears sound. Keeping the 30-km zone free of unregistered structures enhances legal clarity, territorial integrity, and resilience against non-State actors. It also improves administrative efficiency by reclaiming public land, regulating forest use, and preventing the spread of unregulated religious sites that could evolve into political or social mobilisation spaces. Uttar Pradesh, for instance, recently reported demolishing around 429 structures within 10 kilometres of the Nepal border.

However, the directive raises serious questions about governance, civil rights and community cohesion. The phrase "illegal religious encroachments" carries heavy political and communal overtones. A focus on "religious" structures in sensitive border regions can be interpreted as discriminatory, eroding trust between the State and residents who already contend with limited access to infrastructure and public services.

The proposed enforcement push also conflicts with local realities. Border settlements are home to diverse groups, including historically marginalised and tribal communities for whom these places of worship or gathering are not mere structures but cultural anchors. Abrupt demolitions without legal recourse, rehabilitation or dialogue risk resentment, displacement and unrest—ironically undermining one of the core objectives of the VVP: strengthening border security.

The framing of "demographic change as a threat" must be handled cautiously. While it is true that demographic monitoring is a legitimate aspect of security planning, it can easily slide into exclusionary or populist politics. VVP's developmental goals, which encompass sustainable livelihoods, education, and infrastructure, will be jeopardised if the people perceive the encroachment campaign as punitive rather than protective. So, the key here is to ensure legal transparency, community consultation, and procedural fairness, without which this initiative risks alienating the citizens it seeks to safeguard.

Various operational challenges, such as the lack of accurate land records, clear boundary demarcations, and administrative presence, can impact the effective implementation of VVP. New tools like satellite mapping and drone surveillance that are available can assist in the process, but rapid demolitions in rugged or densely populated areas make it difficult to uphold due process or ensure humane outcomes.

The political context is also important to be looked at in this regard; elections are approaching in many border states, and also the immigration narratives are dominating the public discourse as well; hence, these measures will certainly intersect with the electoral strategy and federal tensions. Hence, it becomes vital to ensure that the border-security agenda is not mixed up with partisan motives or used to advance or reinforce majoritarian narratives.

It may not be inherently misguided to clear out the illegal structures near the international borders, but the legitimacy and the success of the initiative will rest upon how it is undertaken through balanced enforcement, legal transparency, and by respecting social sensitivities. The communities living on the Indian borders deserve security, inclusion, and, more importantly, genuine participation in governance. Civic trust is the cornerstone of any democracy, and it is essential that national security not come at the expense of it.

A constructive way forward involves addressing the VVP initiative from three different angles. First, transparent verification through open, participatory audits of all structures within a 30-kilometre range, distinguishing unauthorised constructions from long-standing community sites, with an accessible appeals process. Second, integrated development: investments in infrastructure, livelihoods, education, and healthcare, with residents treated as partners in national security. Third, safeguarding rights and guaranteeing redress by ensuring due process, providing alternative spaces where needed and offering legal support to affected groups while ensuring fairness and preventing alienation. Only when development, security and justice advance together can India's borders become confident frontiers.

(Gerald is a PhD Scholar, Department of Political Science, St Joseph's Research and Innovation Council, and Areesh is the Head of the Department of International Relations, Peace and Public Policy, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru)

Argentina has emerged as a surprisingly prominent destination for LGBTQ+ Russians escaping President Vladimir V Putin's escalating anti-gay repression

EMMA BUBOLA AND DANIEL POLITI

Anna Sokolova, left, with her wife, Antonina Lysikova, during the Pride parade in Buenos Aires on November 1. NYT

Gay Russians find a haven on the other side of the world

The floats thrummed to the Argentines dancing in rainbow bikinis, leather boots and angel wings beneath the blooming jacaranda trees of Buenos Aires, as the drag queens' sequin skirts sparkled with the warm light of spring. For Argentines, it was just the city's annual Gay Pride celebration. But for a Russian gay couple joining this month's festivities, they were scenes from another planet.

"It's the most freedom I have ever seen," said one of them, Marat Murzakhanov, 23, who is from the Russian city of Ufa, near the Ural Mountains. "We want to stay here."

They are not the only ones.

Argentina has emerged as a surprisingly prominent, if geographically distant, haven for LGBTQ+ Russians escaping President Vladimir Putin's escalating anti-gay crackdown.

Many waves of exiles since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine three years ago — seeking to avoid conscription or repression — have flowed into neighbouring states such as Georgia, Kazakhstan and Armenia. But many LGBTQ+ Russians struggled to stay in those places, facing stigma and a lack of legal protections.

With restrictive visa policies shutting off paths to Europe and the United States, they scoured the world for a country where they could enter easily and live freely.

The answer, many found, was a long-haul flight to the other side of the world.

"When I told my parents I am moving to Argentina, they were like — where is that," said Anton Floretskii, 29, a programmer from Tolyatti, an industrial city in western Russia. "I explained it's in the Southern Hemisphere. That they have completely different stars."

Floretskii said that in Russia, he had been targeted, beaten and shamed for being gay. Now, he wore a tank top reading "my boyfriend is gay" and went to the recent Pride celebration alongside scores of strawberry blond Russians in lace corsets and lipstick singing Argentine gay anthems and sharing *empanadas*.

"It's kind of random," Floretskii said. "Argentina was never on the map."

Putin has in recent years pursued an increasingly harsh crackdown on LGBTQ+ rights in a campaign of oppression that has accelerated since the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022. In 2023, the Russian Supreme Court designated the "international LGBTQ movement" as an "extremist organisation" on par with the likes of al-Qaida, leading to a new wave of repression.

Many gay Russians said it was the culmination of years spent living in fear. Lesbians wore wedding rings to pretend to have husbands, while gay boys were assaulted in malls over their dyed hair.

Some decided to leave.

Floretskii stumbled across Argentina as a possible destination in 2022, when it was included in a Google document shared among gay Russians listing possible countries to where they might immigrate.

Argentina offered strong protections for LGBTQ+ people, including same-sex marriage and gender self-determination.

Georgii Markelov, 27, a social media manager from Moscow, jotted Argentina down in his diary alongside a dozen other countries known for respecting human rights and where Russians could enter without a visa.

Giordani Taldyki, 27, a psychologist from Moscow who had first moved to Bangladesh, read Argentina's Constitution in a park in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital.

"They have immigrant rights in the Constitution," Taldyki said. "I was like, OK, I really like it."

The Argentine Constitution, which was frequently mentioned by LGBTQ+ Russians in Buenos Aires as a key reason for moving there, states that it welcomes "all men in the world who want to live on Argentine soil."

The constitution was adopted in 1853, when Argentina was trying to populate a vast, sparsely inhabited territory and swung its doors open to Europeans. Italians, Spaniards and Eastern European Jews, among others, arrived by the shipload and turned Buenos Aires into one of the great global immigrant hubs of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The nation's liberal immigration policies later attracted war refugees and also high-ranking Nazis seeking to disappear.

Argentina had previously welcomed Russian immigrants, including political dissidents from the former Soviet Union and those seeking refuge after its collapse.

The latest wave started after the war against Ukraine, with Argentina's government recording more than 120,000 Russian arrivals since 2022. The group included many pregnant Russian women hoping to secure a better future and a passport with fewer restrictions for their children. That trend gained national attention in Argentina, but less noticed was the parallel, quieter wave of gay and transgender Russians seeking political asylum.

"Russians were coming, like, coming and coming and coming," said Anna Sokolova, 43, who is originally from Siberia and runs a dog training business in Buenos Aires with her wife. "It was like a snowball."

Mariano Ruiz, the director of a group supporting LGBTQ+ asylum-seekers in Argentina, said it had helped more than 1,800 Russians since the war began. Argentina's allure partly rests with its history: It was the first country in Latin America and one of the first in the world to approve same-sex marriage, in 2010. It also passed landmark legislation allowing people to change their gender on official documents without medical or judicial approval.

"I can be a trans girl, I can be myself and I don't feel judged," said Alisa Nikolaev, 24, who grew up in Siberia and moved to Argentina last year.

Still, Argentina's inclusivity is not a priority for its right-wing president, Javier Milei, who has railed against what he calls "gender ideology" and has tightened immigration rules.

While he has not sought to overturn marriage equality, his government has imposed sweeping austerity measures that have strained public health programs, including those that provide hormone therapy and HIV medications.

The tension was palpable at the Pride celebration, where among makeshift street grills selling meat sandwiches dripping with fat, attendees wore caps reading, "Make Argentina Gay Again."

For many queer Russians, the outspokenness was reassuring, and unexpected. "I was so happy," Taldyki said. "Here, people fight."

There was much more he, and others, cherished about Argentina.

Taldyki said he loved when people asked him, "Do you have a girlfriend or boyfriend?" He loved when he saw a trans cabdriver and when he stopped being reminded of his sexuality.

"Sometimes, here, I forget I'm gay," he said.

Floretskii loved walking into a salon and finding a gay hairdresser and Lady Gaga blasting from the speakers. "I was like, oh my God, am I in a country where this is normal?"

Sokolova said she loved when doctors at the reproductive clinic where she was undergoing in vitro fertilisation treatment asked her why she did not come with her wife, Antonina Lysikova, 37.

Still, no matter how integrated into Argentine society many Russians felt, they were still haunted by the idea that they had to travel thousands of miles from home to enjoy basic rights.

"The bad part of immigration is that our country is not interested in us at all," Lysikova said. "Maybe Argentina will be interested in us, but Russia never. It doesn't matter how much money we earn, how smart we are. Russia doesn't want us."

As the sun set on Pride day in Buenos Aires and prepared to rise over Moscow, Russian lesbian couples in rumpled skirts and smudged makeup after a full day of revelry slow-danced inside a beaux-arts apartment hosting a Russian Gay Pride after-party. One woman wiped away tears.

The New York Times

A bold bill with blurred lines

DEEPIKA M G

The Government of Karnataka has taken a significant step with the release of the draft Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill on October 15 for public consultation. This is the state's second major labour reform effort in recent months, following the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act introduced in August. Together, the two measures position Karnataka as a pioneer in institutionalising social security for the unorganised and contingent workforce.

These reforms operationalise the Code on Social Security, one of four comprehensive labour codes introduced by the Union government (2019–2020) to formalise the informal sector. As labour falls under the Concurrent List, states must align their frameworks with the central codes. Delays in doing so prompted the Supreme Court to direct states to expedite implementation. Karnataka's recent actions are therefore timely, though not without implementation and structural challenges.

The draft bill mandates written contracts between domestic workers and employers and payment of minimum wages before engagement. It defines 'domestic worker' as anyone employed to do domestic work—directly, indirectly or through a contract or digital platform—whether part-time, full-time or as a replacement worker, for one or more employers on the premises or otherwise. The definition includes casual, temporary, piecemeal, gig and migrant workers. An "employer" is any person engaging such workers, either directly or via agencies or platforms. Recruitment agencies outside the state and workers employed by Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs)—including housekeeping staff, security guards, and gardeners—are also covered.

The bill caps working hours at 48 hours per week, provides for leave, maternity benefits and protection against forced labour, and mandates registration of workers within one month of employment. Non-compliance attracts fines and imprisonment. Implementation will be overseen by inspectors and a new Karnataka State Domestic Workers Social Security and Welfare Board, which will administer funds and design welfare schemes. Financing sources include registration fees, fines, government grants and a welfare cess of up to 5% on employers and agencies. District-level grievance redress committees are also proposed.

The insistence on written contracts is crucial, as domestic workers have long lacked formal agreements, making minimum wage enforcement nearly impossible. The bill seeks to universalise social security across the unorganised sector, irrespective of employment type.

The earlier Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, institutionalised social security for gig workers, enabling the implementation of the Social Security Code, 2020.

Both reforms mark progressive steps towards formalising India's vast informal workforce. They introduce a shared responsibility model: employers are expected to provide basic employment benefits such as minimum wages, maternity leave and paid holidays, while the State supports social security schemes—including insurance and old-age benefits—through a cess-based mechanism.

However, the definition and classification of workers under the Domestic Workers Bill raise concerns. By grouping all informal workers under a single framework, the bill risks overlooking sector-specific realities. Many domestic workers, particularly women, work for multiple employers, raising questions about registration and the application of minimum wage rules. With widely varying working hours, it is essential to specify hourly rates and overtime provisions.

Another concern is the overlap between domestic, gig and contract workers. Those hired through digital platforms are effectively employees of those platforms, not households, and may require distinct regulation. Likewise, workers employed through RWAs or contractors should be addressed separately under the Contract Labour Act.

Similarly, under the Platform-Based Gig Workers Act 2025, gig workers have been grouped under the unorganised category despite working for large aggregators. They may be better classified as dependent contractors, as recognised in some Western economies.

Finally, while the bill's intent is commendable, the state must guard against job losses if higher wages or stricter regulations make domestic help unaffordable. This could encourage automation through machines such as dishwashers and robotic cleaners. Therefore, parallel efforts in skill development and job creation are essential. Yet another short-term effect, if the bill gets passed, could be the effect on spiralling inflation with the rise in wages in the labour market and its effect on the rest of the sectors and the economy.

(The author is a professor in the Department of Economics at Alliance University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 1975

Free Angola is born

Luanda, Nov. 10
The Portuguese High Commissioner, Admiral Leonel Cardoso, today handed over Angola to the "Angolan people" in a surprise ceremony. The ceremony took place in the chandeliered ballroom of the Government Palace and the handover of power was in the form of a declaration to journalists. During the ceremony, which took place at noon, Cardoso declared, "I regret on behalf of Portugal that it has not seen the three African movements united." Mr. Cardoso said he would officially lower the flag at the ancient fort of Sao Michael.

25 YEARS AGO: NOVEMBER 2000

BJP's cup of woes spills over in Uttaranchal

Dehradun, Nov 10
The Bharatiya Janata Party's cup of woes in Uttaranchal has spilled over. The power struggle which marked Mr Nityanand Swami's coronation on November 8 cast its shadow on the formation of the new ministry. Two cabinet minister-designates, Mr Ramesh Pokhriyal and Mr Bhagat Singh Koshiyari, boycotted the swearing-in ceremony. Another party leader, Mr Narayan Ramdas, kept away from the function, peeved at being offered the rank of minister of state.

OASIS | SRI M

Watch carefully, the direction of the heart

When one's mind is caught up in desires, the direction that comes from the heart is not reliable, because it could be only to fulfil our desires. It is not easy to determine whether that command comes from the heart or the mind, which is trying to fulfil our desires and therefore, finding excuses. The only way to distinguish, is to make sure it is really clear in its direction.

Very often, one assumes that the direction is an inspiration, but it turns out to be a desire. Our mind can always cook up reasons and pretend that it is coming from a higher source. So, the way to distinguish whether it is coming from a higher source, is to ensure that it leads you towards the Truth and not towards getting caught up in the Untruth. If you need help, you must always ask your spiritual teacher.

The highest function of the intellect is to understand its limitations, because beyond a certain point, the intellect is of no help. However, it is essential, for without it, one cannot think or discriminate. On the spiritual search, one begins to understand that the intellect, alone, cannot take us to the inner centres of consciousness.

When you sit down to meditate, when you are going deeper within, keep the intellect aside. Try to be free of its wanderings and try to remain without the usual chain of thoughts which comes to us.

Here, the intellect is intruding into the inner. Regular practice or Abhyasa is the only way to move ahead.

There are some thoughts which take you to the spiritual. For instance, during meditation, you may think, 'I feel that there is a beautiful light or I hear the chanting of mantras'. These are thoughts too, but they take you towards the Real.

Thoughts which bring us back from the depth of our mind, identify with the personality and push us towards getting caught up in our day-to-day activities, are personal. Thoughts which are impersonal, lead to the spiritual.

So, when we go to the core of our consciousness, we have to keep all thoughts at bay, go deep within and explore. Nothing should be allowed to intrude.

A great master once said, "When you leave your shoes outside and come in to meditate, you are leaving your personality behind. When you return, you need to function in the world, so put them back on. But remember that it becomes an obstacle to your inner understanding."

LIVES LOST, CITIES SCARRED

March 12, 1993
Bombay (Mumbai) serial blasts
• **257** dead • **1,400** injured
• A coordinated series of 12–13 bombs across the city, one of India's deadliest single-day terror attacks.

Feb 14, 1998
Coimbatore bombings
• **58** dead
• **200+** injured
• 12 bomb attacks in 11 places, all within a 12-km radius

March 7, 2006
Varanasi serial blasts
• **28** dead
• **100+** injured
• Explosions at the Shri Sankat Mochan temple, cantonment railway station and on a train.

Feb 18, 2007
Samjhauta Express (Diwana, Panipat)
• **68–70** dead
• **Dozens** injured
• Bombs detonated on the Indo-Pakistan train, killing mainly Pakistani civilians.

May 18, 2007
Mecca (Makkah) Masjid, Hyderabad
• **16** dead
• **100** injured
• Pipe-bomb blast inside the mosque during Friday prayers.

Aug 25, 2007
Hyderabad twin blasts (Lumbini Park & Gokul Chat Bhandar)
• **42–44** dead • **50+** injured
• Two near-simultaneous IED blasts at crowded public spots.

Jul 26, 2008
Ahmedabad serial blasts
• **56** dead
• **200+** injured
• Multiple bombs across the city in two waves; major convictions followed years later.

Nov 26–29, 2008
Mumbai (26/11) attacks
• **166–175** dead • **300+** injured
• Coordinated shootings, bombings and sieges at hotels, a railway terminus and other locations; long-running hostage crisis.

DELHI HORROR: Eyewitnesses recount Red Fort blast; say body parts were scattered all over

Explosion sparks panic in Old Delhi

'Sky turned red, buildings shook like a quake'

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Chaos and fear reigned supreme in Old Delhi on Monday evening as a blast tore through a busy intersection of Chandni Chowk, killing nine people and injuring dozens.

Onlookers and witnesses said a small car was the cause of the blast, and tremors were felt in adjoining areas like Tiraha Behram Khan and Daryaganj.

The blast took place at the entrance of Chandni Chowk, where the road meets Netaj Subhash Marg, opposite the Red Fort.

The blast took place next to metro pillar 1 of the Jama Masjid Metro Station, near the Gauri Shankar Temple. The police immediately closed the road leading from Dilli Gate to the blast site.

A few minutes later, some roads were opened, but the area opposite the Red Fort was cordoned off.

Rakesh, a dealer of food packaging, who was coming from Bhagirath Palace—an area within Chandni Chowk that deals in electricals—said that he had a narrow escape.

"I was on the opposite road, saw a van move in the area when the blast took place, and suddenly heard a deafening noise. My ears started ringing, and when I looked, I saw a van was on fire," he said.

Saroj, a businesswoman living in Daryaganj's Nishad Raj Road nearby the historic Purdah Bagh, which is situated close to the blast site, said she felt a huge tremor when the blast took place.

"A glass window nearly fell on my daughter-in-law, and a few minutes later, the police told us that the entire area is on high alert," she said.

Shopkeepers in Daryaganj, Tiraha and other areas were asked to shut shop. Mangat Ram, a chat seller at Daryaganj, said the police from the nearby Daryaganj Police Station advised everyone to go home.

While Daryaganj wore a deserted look, ambulances continued to travel to and fro between the Lok Nayak Hospital, where the victims were rushed to, and the blast site.

Security personnel cordon off the blast site after an explosion near the Red Fort in the old quarters of Delhi on Monday. AFP

Security personnel at the spot. PTI

Ambulances head towards a hospital. AFP

SCENE OF DEVASTATION
• Massive explosion near metro station triggers chaos in Chandni Chowk
• Eyewitnesses describe huge fireball and panic
• Wedding-season crowds add to congestion
• Over 10 fire tenders rushed; blaze controlled by 7.30 pm

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

"It was a massive blast, unlike anything I had ever heard. Soon after, people ran helter-skelter. In the panic, I too fell down," said Sumit Singh from Ghaziabad, who had come to shop for a wedding near the bustling Chandni Chowk market in Delhi.

"Right after the explosion, there was a huge fireball. The sky turned red. At first, I thought it was a cylinder blast," he said, adding that the impact was so severe that body parts were strewn across the street.

The incident occurred in front of Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station, a busy spot opposite the road leading to Chandni Chowk and about 1.5 kilometres from Jama Masjid.

"There was complete chaos in the market as people started running. Several fell, and it felt like a stampede," Singh recalled.

The area is always crowded, especially in the evenings, with people heading to Chandni Chowk market or returning to the metro station and nearby parking lots. With the wedding season underway in North India, footfall has been even heavier due to marriage shopping.

Videos shared by the Chandni Chowk Traders' Association captured the magnitude of the blast. One clip showed a body on a vehicle, another depicted a victim lying on the road. Eyewitnesses reported scenes of devastation near the site.

Soon after the incident, more than 10 fire tenders were rushed to the spot as police cordoned off the area, according to the Delhi Fire Services. Officials said the blaze was brought under control by 7.30 pm.

Six cars, two e-rickshaws and an autorickshaw were gutted in the fire, with mangled remains of vehicles scattered across the area as forensic teams from the Delhi Police, National Investigation Agency and National Security Guard reached the spot.

The blast was so powerful that it shattered the windows of vehicles parked several metres away, and the sound was heard as far as ITO, a few kilometres away.

"When we came near, we saw the road littered with human remains. No one could figure out what had happened. Several cars were also damaged," said Mona Dagar, who was returning to the metro after visiting Chandni Chowk.

Soon after the blast, most shops in Chandni Chowk shut down as people rushed towards the metro to return home. The parking area too was crowded, with many trying to leave quickly, said Sanjay Bhargava, president of the Chandni Chowk Sarv Vyapar Mandal (traders' association).

Buildings shook as if an earthquake had struck, and panic spread through the market.

The Red Fort Metro Station lies on the road connecting Delhi Gate in Central Delhi to Kashmere Gate further north. The Old Delhi Railway Station is roughly 2 km away.

The government must ensure thorough investigation into this blast, which has taken place in a high-security and often crowded place, so that those responsible for this lapse and incident are held accountable.
Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

Only Pakistan could stoop to such a vile act. Modi has boosted the morale of those Pakistani beasts by agreeing to a ceasefire. Those terrorists who took the lives of our innocent citizens – bring them all to justice, too. The attack near the Red Fort is an assault on the symbol of our pride. The country is not safe in Modi's hands.
Sanjay Singh, AAP leader

Tomorrow morning, we will hold a detailed analysis of the blast with senior officers at the home ministry.
Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

PM takes stock of situation; Shah assures thorough probe

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took stock of the situation after the Delhi explosion. He also spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and received an update on the situation.

"Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest. Reviewed the situation with Home Minister Amit Shah," the prime minister said in a statement posted on X.

Narendra Modi

"Within 10 minutes, the Delhi Crime Branch and Special Police teams reached the spot. We will be thoroughly investigating this incident," Amit Shah said in a statement.

He also visited the blast site and the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan hospital, where the injured have been admitted.

"We will soon be able to find out the reason behind the blast," the Union home minister told reporters at the hospital.

A high-level meeting of senior officials from the Delhi Police and other investigating agencies has been called on Tuesday morning.

A high alert has been sounded in Delhi and the adjoining states.

Home Minister Amit Shah visits the site of an explosion in the old quarters of Delhi. REUTERS

Heart-rending scenes outside hospital

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Confusion and grief marked the atmosphere at the Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash (LNJP) Hospital here on Monday night as families waited anxiously for word on their loved ones.

As victims were brought to the hospital, there were heart-rending scenes outside as relatives alleged a lack of information and mismanagement. An elderly man was seen pleading with the police and hospital guards to let him in to check on his son. He was finally allowed after a heated argument.

"My son Ankush Sharma went to visit the Gauri Shankar temple with his friend Rahul Kaushik. Rahul was sent home with stitches. Ankush is fighting for his life," said Sudheer Sharma, a resident of Shahdara.

Zeeshan Ansari, the brother-in-law of one Dawd who was injured in the blast, said, "He called me after the incident. We rushed here immediately, but have not been allowed to see him till now."

Mohammad Danish, the cousin of auto-rickshaw driver Sameer Khan, who was injured in the blast, said: "Sameer is in the ICU. We still don't know how bad his situation is."

Previous owner of car detained

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A man, believed to be the previous owner of the car involved in the explosion near Red Fort, has been detained, officials said.

Mohd Salman is learnt to have told police that he has sold the i20 Hyundai car with registration number HR 26CE 7674, but the buyer had not changed the registration.

Sources said Salman has told the investigators that he sold it to Devendra in Okhla in Delhi. Investigators are yet to corroborate his version. Devendra is learnt to have sold it to someone in Haryana's Ambala later.

Sources said the rear side of the car exploded first leading to other vehicles being damaged. Investigators also said there were three people in the car and have not found any pellet injuries on the bodies of the injured. They said it was unusual for people not to have pellet injuries from a bomb explosion.

Dharmendra in hospital; family seeks prayers

MUMBAI, DHNS: Hindi film icon Dharmendra, admitted to Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai for the past few days, is said to be in a critical condition.

Dharmendra

Reports suggest the 89-year-old actor has been placed on a ventilator, though neither the family nor the hospital has confirmed this.

Dharmendra's wife and Mathura MP Hema Malini shared a health update on Monday evening. "I thank everyone for their concern about Dharam Ji, who is in hospital for observation. He is being continuously monitored and we are all with him. I request you all to pray for his welfare and speedy recovery," she posted on X

On social media, fans and colleagues flooded platforms with messages wishing the veteran actor a speedy recovery.

Actor Prem Chopra hospitalised

MUMBAI, DHNS: Veteran actor Prem Chopra has been admitted to Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre in Bandra, Mumbai, due to age-related complications.

Prem Chopra

Chopra, 90, who has acted in over 300 films, was taken to the hospital last Saturday. Family members said there is no cause for concern. He is expected to be discharged in the coming days.

Chopra's career includes memorable roles in films such as 'Shaheed', 'Do Raaste', 'Kati Patang', 'Bobby', 'Upkar', 'Do Anjane' and 'Kranti'.

Larger tragedy averted: Several lives saved as Red Fort remains closed on Mondays

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The New Delhi blast on Monday that led to several deaths could have been even bigger had the Red Fort — a popular historic monument — not been closed on Monday.

Since the Red Fort is closed on Mondays, fewer tourists were in the area on the fateful day.

This area is always crowded on other days, said Sonu Singh, an auto-rickshaw driver.

People usually stroll here after visiting the Red Fort and eat at the stalls that sell popular street food, he added.

On Monday, the people at the spot were mostly those visiting the Chandini Chowk market.

Recalling the gut-wrenching scenes, Singh said, "We saw the body parts of two or three men."

Irfan, another eyewitness, said the scene was horrific. "We saw severed hands and fingers. Hand-cart pullers and taxi drivers were caught in the blast. Some of them didn't survive," he said.

The blast spot is close to several other popular tourist places, like Raj Ghat and Jamia Masjid. Several popular markets are located nearby, selling wares including dry fruits and spectacles.

Monday's explosion brought back memories of Delhi's dark days, when its historic markets, monuments and public spaces found themselves on the frontlines of violence, each incident etching deep scars in its collective memory.

The summer of 1996 was one of the darkest chapters, when a powerful bomb ripped through the Lajpat Nagar market — one of the national capital's busiest shopping hubs — killing 13 people and injuring dozens.

A year later, a chain of explosions rocked multiple parts of the city, from Sadar Bazaar and Karol Bagh to Rani Bagh, Chandni Chowk, and even a moving bus in Punjabi Bagh.

The blasts struck at the city's heart — its markets and streets — where daily life carried on amid growing unease.

In December 2000, a terror group opened fire inside the fort complex, killing two people.

Barely a year later, the Parliament attack of December 2001 once again placed Delhi at the centre of terror, claiming the lives of nine security personnel and staff members.

The years that followed brought more pain. In 2005, a series of coordinated explosions just two days before Diwali tore through Paharganj, Sarojini Nagar, and a DTC bus in Govindpuri, killing over 67 people, injuring over 200.

The last major terror strike before Monday's incident was in 2011, when a briefcase bomb exploded outside the Delhi High Court, leaving 15 dead and 79 injured.

DMK thrives on 'fake voters': AIADMK

CHENNAI, DHNS: Strongly supporting the SIR of electoral rolls, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Monday accused the DMK of opposing the exercise as it is scared of losing 'fake voters' who help them cheat the system. He asked party cadre and people to remain vigilant against the DMK's 'voter fraud tactics.

"Why are they screaming about SIR? A government officer, the Booth Level Officer (BLO), visits each home, distributes forms, collects them, and updates the rolls. There is no chance of delay as they have a full month to complete this work. DMK's panic only shows their fear of losing the fake voters who help them cheat the system," he said.

UP to make Vande Mataram recital mandatory in schools

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Amid the raging controversy following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charge that some lines of the national song Vande Mataram were dropped in 1937 and that the Congress was to blame, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said Vande Mataram recital would be mandatory in all schools in the state.

Speaking while taking part in the "Unity Footmarch" in his hometown Gorakhpur, Adityanath said this step would inculcate the feeling of pride and respect among citizens towards "Bharat Mata" (Mother India).

"Everyone should respect the national song Vande Mataram... We will make its singing mandatory in every school in UP," he said.

The CM also said it was everyone's duty to identify the elements that wanted to divide the country in the name of caste, region, and language.

"It is a conspiracy to create a new Jinnah (a reference to Pakistan's first prime minister, Mohammed Ali Jinnah)... We will have to ensure that no Jinnah emerges in India," he said.

Adityanath also said no religion could be more important than the country. "Anyone who creates obstacles for the country should be relegated to the sidelines," he said.

The UP CM, referring to a Samajwadi Party (SP) MP's reported refusal to sing Vande Mataram, said such people took part in events to commemorate Jinnah but did not participate in programmes to pay respect to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

A routine probe in Srinagar leads to arms cache recovery

'White-collar terror module' linked to JeM and AGuH

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

It began with a few Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) posters on a wall in Srinagar. Three weeks later, it ended with the discovery of 2,900 kg of explosive chemicals in a doctor's house over a thousand km away in Faridabad, Haryana.

What appeared at first to be routine terror propaganda turned into a stunning counter-terror breakthrough—exposing a network that stretched from Kashmir to the national capital region (NCR) and beyond. At its centre were two Kashmiri doctors, both trained professionals, who investigators say were quietly building a logistics chain for Pakistan-backed terror outfits.

The trail began on October 19, when police in the Bunpora area of Nowgam, on the outskirts of Srinagar, spotted JeM posters threatening 'revenge attacks'. Police scanned CCTV footage from the area, and that is where the first lead surfaced.

"During examination of the footage, we found clues pointing to a Kashmiri doctor working in Faridabad," a senior officer told *DH*.

The suspect was identified as Dr Muzamil Ahmad Ganai, a Pulwama native serving in the emergency department of Al-Falah Hospital in Faridabad.

A team of J&K police travelled to Haryana last week and picked up Ganai for questioning. Within hours, he confessed to having stored 'some chemical material' at his residence. When police broke into his flat, they were stunned.

Police officials during a search and cordon operation linked to an interstate and transnational terror module in Faridabad on Monday. PTI

Inside were sacks of ammonium nitrate, sulphur, and aluminium powder—ingredients for powerful improvised explosive devices—stacked alongside timers, detonators, and remote-control circuits, sources said. There was also a rifle and communication gadgets.

"This was not just a cache; it was an entire bomb factory hidden in plain sight," the officer said.

Ganai's interrogation revealed another name—Dr Adeel Rather, a fellow Kashmiri from Qazigund. He had worked as a senior resident at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, before moving to a private hospital in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

A second team was dispatched, and Rather was arrested soon after.

Based on his disclosure, police raided a locker at GMC Anantnag that was once under his use. To their shock, they found an AK-47 rifle carefully wrapped and stored.

Investigators believe the two doctors were part of a 'white-collar terror module'—educated, urbane, and unsuspected, providing cover and logistics for the JeM-Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind network.

Senior officials describe the case as a turning point in understanding how militant groups are evolving.

"This is not about gunmen in forests anymore," said one officer. "This is about professionals—doctors, engineers, teachers—using their social legitimacy to build and hide the infrastructure of terror."

Police suspect the duo were in touch with handlers across the border through encrypted apps, receiving funds through informal hawala channels. Forensic teams are now analysing their phones, laptops and chemical samples to trace the full supply chain.

SC notice to Centre on plea to implement women's quota in Parl

Says women are country's largest minority, seeks govt reply on Nari Shakti Vandan Act

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Union government on a plea filed by Congress leader Jaya Thakur, which seeking a direction for the implementation of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.

The court said that the Preamble to the Constitution guarantees political and social equality to all citizens. "Who is the largest minority in this country? It is the women. It's almost 48%," it said.

The petition urged that the women's reservation law be implemented without waiting for a fresh delimitation exercise.

Upon hearing the plea, a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan asked the government to respond to the PIL.

The petitioner had also approached the court in 2023, seeking directions to implement women's reservation in Parliament before the 2024 general elections. At that time, however, the court refused to entertain the plea.

On Monday, the SC observed that the Preamble affirms all citizens are entitled to political and social equality. "This is about the political equality of women," it said.

Senior advocate Shobha Gupta, appearing for Thakur, submitted that it was unfortunate women had to approach the court for their rightful representation, even after 75 years of India's Independence.

Hearing the counsel, the bench said, "When is the delimitation exercise? Enforcement of law is up to the executive, and we cannot issue a mandamus."

The court, however, issued notice to the respondents.

GENDER EQUALITY

- Nari Shakti Vandan Act provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies
- Petition urged that the women's reservation law be implemented without waiting for a fresh delimitation exercise
- Court observes that the Preamble affirms all citizens are entitled to political and social equality

25-year-old hacked to death inside police quarters in TN

CHENNAI, DHNS: In a shocking incident, a 25-year-old man was hacked to death inside a police residential quarters in Tiruchirapalli even as Chief Minister M K Stalin was on an official visit to the city. The incident gave the opposition fodder to attack the ruling DMK over the "failing" law and order situation in the state.

Thamaraichelvan was chased by five suspects and knocked down at Bheemnagar in the city. As he was cornered by the gang, the real estate consultant escaped from the spot and sought refuge inside the new police residential quarters, thinking that he was safe there. However, the gang forced its way into the quarters and attacked Thamaraichelvan with sharp weapons, killing him on the spot. The incident took place on Monday when Stalin was in the city.

The police said previous enmity involving real estate seems to be the motive behind the murder. A case of murder has been registered at Trichy's Palakkarai Police Station, and one suspect, Ilamaran, has been picked up. A search has been launched for four others.

The incident comes a week after a second-year management student at a college in Coimbatore was abducted and sexually assaulted.

Leader of Opposition Edappadi K Palaniswami sought to know how the Chief Minister would explain that even a man who sought refuge inside police quarters had no security for his life.

TTD received adulterated ghee for over 5 years: SIT

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the ghee adulteration case has found that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) received supplies of adulterated ghee for over five years.

According to sources, Pomil Jain and Vipin Jain, Directors of M/s Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Milk Private Limited, who were arrested by the CBI in February, produced adulterated ghee at their plant in Bhagwanpur, near Roorkee in Uttarakhand.

The probe revealed that instead of cow ghee, the accused used adulterants such as palm oil, palm kernel oil, and palmolein, sourced from Budge Budge Company in Kolkata.

These substances were blended with a small quantity of pure ghee and mixed with chemicals like beta-carotene, acetic acid ester, and synthetic ghee flavour to pass laboratory tests and retain aroma.

These findings were submitted to a local court in Andhra Pradesh after an accused was arrested.

As part of their plan, Pomil and Vipin Jain supplied the adulterated ghee to the TTD through Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Milk Pvt Ltd and other firms, including M/s Sri Vyshnavi Dairy Specialties Pvt Ltd near Srikalahasti, M/s Malganga Milk and Agro Products Pvt Ltd near Pune, and M/s AR Dairy Foods Pvt Ltd in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

Together, these firms supplied around 60,37,351 kg of ghee worth approximately Rs 240 crore between 2019 and 2024.

No action by TTD

The SIT has also found that test reports from the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, in August 2022, clearly confirmed adulteration with vegetable oil.

However, despite these findings being communicated to then TTD Chairman Y V Subba Reddy, no action was initiated against the suppliers.

'Aware of morphed video': CJI voices concern over perils of AI

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Voicing concern over the perils of artificial intelligence, Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Monday said he was aware of a morphed video circulating on social media that falsely showed a shoe-throwing incident in his courtroom.

A bench of Chief Justice of India and Justice K Vinod Chandran agreed to list for hearing after two weeks a plea that sought framing of guidelines to regulate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools within the judiciary.

During the proceedings, a counsel for the petitioner cautioned against the unchecked adoption of AI tools in court processes.

The court, however, observed that any move to regulate such technologies must come from the executive, not the courts. The PIL filed by advocate Kartikeya Rawal sought formulation of a legal or policy framework to govern the use of Generative AI (GenAI) in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

The bench said, "This is essentially a policy matter. It is for the executive to take a call."

The plea sought directions to the Centre to enact a law or frame a comprehensive policy to ensure the "regulated and uniform" use of GenAI within judicial systems.

It contended that GenAI models trained on real-world data are prone to replicating, or even amplifying, existing social biases against marginalised communities. Without clear standards on data neutrality and ownership, AI-assisted judicial processes risk compromising citizens' right to know under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, it claimed.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

THANKS FOR SUCH A GREAT LUNCH, SWEETIE!
AW, YOU'RE WELCOME, CUTIE!
THIS IS WHAT I CALL A REALLY HEARTY LUNCH TO GET ME THROUGH THE DAY, HONEYBUNCH!
IT SURE IS, SNOOKUMS!
DO I REALLY HAVE TO PAINT THE GARAGE AFTER SUCH A HEAVY LUNCH?
YOU'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH, STUD MUFFIN!

Hagar The Horrible

I DON'T KNOW WHO TO LISTEN TO...YOU SAY DUMP LUTE, BUT MOM SAYS DON'T DUMP LUM!
LUTE MAKES THE MOST PERFECT PANCAKES!
LISTEN TO YOUR MOM

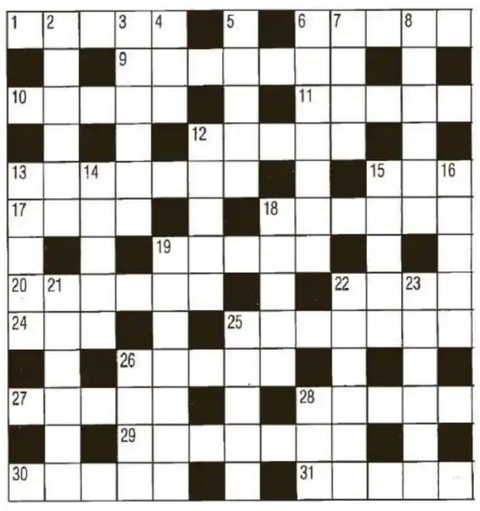
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

MARVIN, THIS IS ROSIE, A NEW STUDENT AT OUR DAYCARE
I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW HER AROUND AND TELL HER ABOUT THE SCHOOL
DO I TELL HER THE REAL STORY OR THE SCHOOL'S PROPAGANDA VERSION?

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12285



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

1 By getting a fathead out of a hole (5)
6 Bring on a turn, just in case (5)
9 Particular fuel mixture for an automobile (7)
10 A race of carriers (5)
11 Characterised by precipitation (5)
12 General hat material? (5)
13 Wandered off to get the old violin out (7)
15 One with some scope for law enforcement (3)
17 Fishy contribution from Schubert (4)
18 Does it taste like bits of minced sturgeon? (6)
19 Tale of a Conservative at his wits' end (5)
20 Toffs, like that posh fellow Leslie (6)
22 Quote or mention as something to see (4)
24 In Scotland, it has its regional side (3)
25 One who argues that a sporting club needs deer around? (7)
26 Set about Ben for taking Joe in (5)
27 Fifty-four letters for something to eat (5)
28 Person entertained in the vaguest sense (5)
29 Keep going until finally dismissed (4,3)
30 That woman will be a hard case! (5)
31 Quite happy to go wrong, in my case (5)

DOWN

2 A lively bather may get out of it (6)
3 A crab's disturbed by a beetle! (6)
4 Sadly depleted by 550, let's suppose (3)
5 Was informed that it's tough out East (5)
6 Could such examination lead to damnation? (7)
7 Central Asian expression of sadness (4)
8 Unsuitable place to send coffee (6)
12 They go round taking pounds in wagers (5)
13 To read a letter means little (5)
14 A trying game? (5)
15 A measure of antiquity (5)
16 Great man to run out! (5)
18 Sort of belt for the novice? (5)
19 A number of misguided leavers (7)
21 Stupid new fashion, almost (6)
22 He made history at the seaside (6)
23 Can it make you think how wild a steer can be? (6)
25 There's a suggestion of repetition here (5)
26 Inventor; the boxer's saviour, perhaps (4)
28 Exudation from leguminous plants? (3)

EASY

ACROSS

1 Under (5)
6 Whole range (5)
9 Menacing (7)
10 Weighty (5)
11 Quickly (5)
12 Perceives sound (5)
13 Melodious (7)
15 Weep (3)
17 Boy's name (4)
18 Synagogue (6)
19 Plank (5)
20 Slanting type (6)
22 Typeface (4)
24 Swindle (3)
25 Delights (7)
26 Wheel surrounds (5)
27 Alarm (5)
28 Hospital rooms (5)
29 Poster (7)
30 Sheriff's men (5)
31 Aden's country (5)

DOWN

2 Complete view (6)
3 Get (6)
4 Method (3)
5 Gem (5)
6 Protected (7)
7 Mountain range (4)
8 Unsophisticated (6)
12 Chaos (5)
13 Sorcery (5)
14 Old Nick (5)
15 Bobbin (5)
16 Defeats (5)
18 Attempts (5)
19 Two-wheeled transport (7)
21 Love apple (6)
22 Appearance (6)
23 Stylus (6)
25 Arrive at (5)
26 Gratuities (4)
28 Sardonic (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12284

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 3, Frost 8, M-oral 10, Hooky 11, P-U-p 12, Wagon 13, Mini-Mal 15, Verdi 18, Tar 19, Des-ist 21, Rapha-el 22, Rail 23, RE-AM 24, Ra-ilme-n 26, Score-D 29, Eat 31, Ton-up 32, Artists 34, Licks 35, Roo 36, L.-even 37, Penny 38, Reins.

DOWN: 1, H-Op. it 2, Capital 4, R-Eal 5, Shovel 6, Ton-ES 7, Skids 9, Run 12, War-head 14, M-a-P 16, Ripen 17, Items 19, Dealers 20, C-rust 21, Ri-p-on 23, Retired 24, Repi-NE 25, Mat 27, Cover 28, Ruler 30, Stone 32, Akin 33, S-on.

EASY

ACROSS: 3, Gouda 8, Devil 10, Elect 11, Pan 12, Peeve 13, Holiday 15, Orate 18, Mad 19, Butler 21, Candour 22, Opal 23, Sago 24, Weakens 26, Alibis 29, Era 31, Renal 32, Prefers 34, Clues 35, Fly 36, Gecko 37, Slips 38, Swarm.

DOWN: 1, Depot 2, Minimal 4, Obey 5, Devour 6, Alert 7, Acute 9, Val 12, Paddles 14, Dan 16, Alias 17, Error 19, Buskers 20, So far 21, Cabin 23, Snaffle 24, Willow 25, Ere 27, Level 28, Backs 30, Crypt 32, Pear 33, Eli.

◆SU-DO-KU-6748◆

	6		4					
		8		9		2		
7	1			3	8	9		
3		1	5					
5								9
					9	3		7
		3	1	7			6	2
		4		6		7		
					4		9	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6747

2	6	1	5	8	7	4	3	9
4	7	5	6	3	9	2	8	1
8	3	9	4	1	2	7	5	6
9	4	2	1	5	3	8	6	7
6	5	3	7	9	8	1	2	4
7	1	8	2	6	4	5	9	3
5	8	4	9	7	6	3	1	2
3	2	6	8	4	1	9	7	5
1	9	7	3	2	5	6	4	8

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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I1	C3	T1	X8	B3	A1	A1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
R1	A1	U1	N1	R1	T1	C3	Triple Word Score	RACK 2
L1	U1	Q10	Y4	L1	A1	E1	Triple Word Score	RACK 3
G2	Y4	N1	M3	A1	I1	F4	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 255-265
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	C3	A1	L1	I1	N1	G2
Q10	U1	I1	N1	I1	C3	
O1	N1	I1	O1	N1	Y4	
M3	A1	E1	S1	T1	R1	O1

RACK 1 = 70
RACK 2 = 17
RACK 3 = 9
RACK 4 = 77
JUDD'S TOTAL 173

PAR SCORE 110-120

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SAEEC

EHTTF

UGATRI

WLOYLS

I made too many mistakes out there. I'm going to go around again. Wanna join me?
Great attitude! Let's do it!
SHE WAS STRUGGLING WITH HER GOLF GAME BUT WAS DETERMINED TO ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AUDIT TWICE CHARGE FERRET
Answer: She thought her perfectly-steeped cup of Earl Grey was — "TEA-RRIFIC"

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HITORI-3202

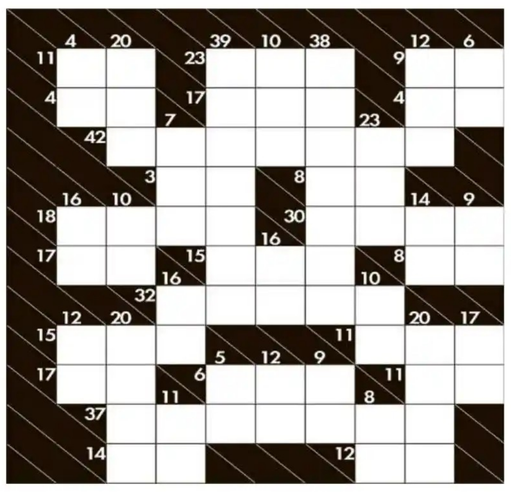
2	5	7	6	8	1	1	1
6	1	2	3	1	5	8	1
3	6	8	7	3	2	4	1
8	6	4	7	5	5	6	2
3	2	1	6	4	8	7	1
3	1	3	2	6	6	5	4
7	4	6	3	1	1	3	6
1	1	5	8	7	3	2	6

SOLUTION TO 3201

8	■	1	7	2	4	6	■
4	1	■	5	■	8	7	2
■	2	4	6	5	■	1	3
3	4	7	■	1	5	2	■
■	3	■	1	4	2	8	5
2	■	3	■	7	6	■	1
7	8	2	3	6	1	4	■
1	■	6	2	8	■	3	7

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3202



SOLUTION TO 3201

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3732

7								5
8	■						■	
		■				■	3	
		6	■		9			
				■	5		1	2
			■		■	3		
		8				■		
	2	1	5	6		9	■	
6	5			1			7	■

SOLUTION TO 3731

2	5	4	1	6	7	3	9	8
8	6	1	3	2	9	4	7	5
9	7	3	5	8	4	1	6	2
6	4	9	7	1	2	8	5	3
3	1	8	4	5	6	7	2	9
7	2	5	9	3	8	6	1	4
1	8	6	2	4	5	9	3	7
5	3	7	8	9	1	2	4	6
4	9	2	6	7	3	5	8	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Deal reached to end US govt shutdown

8 Democrats back GOP plan in rare break from party line

NYT NEWS SERVICE

The end of the longest US government shutdown ever was in sight on Monday, a day after eight senators who caucus with Democrats broke ranks and voted to advance a plan to fund most federal agencies through January.

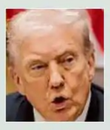
Sen John Thune, the majority leader, urged colleagues not to "pointlessly" drag out the process after a 60–40 vote late Sunday that exposed a rift among Democrats but cleared the way for the Senate to move towards a final vote in the coming days. "People have suffered for long enough," he said on the Senate floor, pressing to secure unanimous consent from all 100 senators to move forward before the end of the day.

Even if that were achieved, the government would be unlikely to reopen before Wednesday.

The package must first pass the Senate and then go to the House for approval before being signed by President Donald Trump.

The plan did not include Democrats' key demand—an extension of Affordable Care Act subsidies due to expire at the end of the year—drawing angry backlash from many in the party. Even so, Sunday's votes by the eight Democratic-aligned senators suggested there was sufficient support to end the gridlock that has shuttered the government for weeks, leaving hundreds of thousands of federal workers furloughed, millions of Americans at risk of losing food assistance, and many others facing travel disruptions.

DONALD TRUMP
US President



"All Air Traffic Controllers must get back to work, NOW!!! Anyone who doesn't will be substantially 'docked.

THE PACKAGE

- Keeps government running at current levels until January 30
- Blocks Trump from downsizing government and protects workers from layoffs until January 30.
- No new rules to stop Trump from cutting or freezing approved funds.

Chief Executive of BBC News Deborah Turness speaks to the media outside BBC Broadcasting House after she and Director General of BBC Tim Davie resigned following accusations of bias at the British broadcaster in London on Monday. REUTERS

Trump threatens BBC with legal action over edited speech

BBC chief Samir Shah apologises for 'error of judgement'

LONDON, AP/PTI

The BBC has come under intense scrutiny after US President Donald Trump threatened legal action against the broadcaster for allegedly misrepresenting one of his speeches in a documentary, prompting the resignation of two top executives and a public apology from its chairman.

Two of the BBC's most senior executives—Director-General Tim Davie and BBC News CEO Deborah Turness—resigned on Sunday following accusations of bias in the Panorama documentary, which edited a speech Trump delivered on January 6, 2021, before a crowd of his supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington.

The programme had spliced together three quotes from two different sections of Trump's speech, delivered nearly an hour apart, into what appeared to be a single continuous quote in which he urged his supporters to march with him and "fight like hell." Among the omitted parts was a line where Trump called for his supporters to demonstrate peacefully.

The controversy deepened when Trump's legal team sent a letter to the BBC threatening legal action over the broadcast. "We will review the letter and respond directly in due course," the BBC said in a statement on Monday.

Amid growing criticism, the BBC's Indian-origin chairman, Samir Shah, issued an apology on Monday, describing the incident as an "error of judgement." His apology, sent in a letter to the chair of the UK Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee, came after several days of public outrage and internal review.

"The BBC would like to apologise for that error of judgement," Shah wrote, adding that the way the speech was edited "did give the impression of a direct call for violent action."

Shah said that since the publication of a leaked memo by former adviser Michael Prescott—who first criticised the editing—over 500 complaints had been lodged. He confirmed that the BBC has initiated a review process to address all issues raised in the memo, including claims of "anti-Israel bias" in BBC Arabic's coverage.

5 Indians abducted in Mali

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Five Indian citizens have been abducted in Mali even as a siege by the terrorists of Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), an affiliate of Al-Qaeda, on the capital of the West African country added pressure to its military government to negotiate with the outfit sanctioned by the UN.

New Delhi's diplomatic mission in Bamako confirmed the abduction of five Indians, who were employed by a company to work on an electrification project at Koury in southern Mali. They all hailed from Tamil Nadu. They were taken by a group of armed men on November 6.

"The Embassy (of India) is aware of the unfortunate incident of kidnapping of five of our nationals in Mali on 6 Nov 2025," New Delhi's diplomatic mission in Bamako posted on X, adding that it was working closely with the authorities of the West African country and the company, which had recruited the abducted people, to secure the safe release of the hostages "as quickly as possible".

Though it is not clear if any group claimed responsibility for the abduction of the five Indians, the kidnapping occurred amid heightened tension in Mali over a siege by JNIM—Al Qaeda's Sahel branch—on Bamako since September. Earlier, in July, three Indians were kidnapped from a cement plant. The Ministry of External Affairs had then advised all Indians in Mali "to exercise utmost caution, remain vigilant, and stay in close contact with the Embassy of India in Bamako for updates and assistance.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Kiran Desai, author of "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny", poses for a photo in London on Sunday. AP/PTI

Booker veterans favourites to scoop literary award

▸ The winner of the Booker Prize will be announced on Monday (3 am IST Tuesday), with six novels competing for the prestigious English-language literary award and two veterans favoured by bookmakers, AFP reports from London.

British author Andrew Miller, who has previously been shortlisted, and Indian author Kiran Desai, the 2006 Booker winner, were predicted to scoop the award at the London ceremony. It would be Desai's second win with her epic love story "The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny". The 700-page novel is the longest vying for the prize and took Desai nearly two decades to write. The shortlist, selected by a judging panel that included chair and former winner Roddy Doyle and "Sex and the City" actor Sarah Jessica Parker, features authors of four different nationalities. The winner of the £50,000 ($65,500) prize is due to be announced at a glitzy ceremony in London.

Nepal to seek Indian aid for polls

▸ Nepal's electoral body on Monday said that it will approach neighbouring countries, mainly India, to seek logistic support for the upcoming general election, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

"The Election Commission has sent its demand list to the government to be handed over to the neighbouring countries, India and China, through diplomatic channels," acting Chief Election Commissioner Ram Prasad Bhandari said, talking to PTI.

During a meeting with government officials and the commission staff, the representatives from the two countries have expressed their willingness to extend logistic support for elections scheduled for March 5, 2026. A couple of weeks ago, there was a meeting between the government and representatives of diplomatic missions and development partners, in which Prime Minister Sushila Kaki had sought their support for the upcoming elections.

President Droupadi Murmu visits the memorial of Dr Antonio Agostinho Neto, the first President of Angola, in Luanda on Monday. PTI

Suharto declared national hero

▸ Indonesia declared the former dictator Suharto a national hero on Monday, provoking outrage from rights groups who said the move was an attempt to whitewash decades of human rights abuses and corruption that took place during his 32 years in power, AP/PTI reports from Jakarta.

Suharto was a US ally during the Cold War who presided over decades of authoritarian rule, during which up to a million political opponents were killed, until he was toppled by protests in 1998. He was one of 10 people recognised by President Prabowo Subianto to mark National Hero Day. Minister of Culture Fadli Zon said that Suharto played a key role during the struggle for independence against the Dutch colonial rulers.

Trump pardons Rudy Giuliani

▸ President Donald Trump has pardoned his former personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, his former chief of staff Mark Meadows and others accused of backing the Republicans' efforts to overturn the 2020 election, AP/PTIreports from Washington.

Ed Martin, the government's pardon attorney, posted on social media a signed proclamation of the "full, complete, and unconditional" pardon, which also names conservative attorneys Sidney Powell and John Eastman.

Crude bomb blasts in Dhaka

DHAKA, PTI: A series of crude bomb blasts took place in the capital on Monday, including outside the head office of the Grameen Bank and a business outlet owned by an aide of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, police said.

A 28-year-old man has been arrested in connection the attacks, the chief adviser's office said. "Two miscreants on a motorcycle arrived and hurled the crude bomb in front of the road of the Grameen Bank at 3:45 am in Dhaka's Mirpur," police said.

French court frees ex-president Sarkozy pending appeal

PARIS, AFP

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was on Monday set to be freed from prison after a judge ordered his release pending an appeal hearing in the case over alleged Libyan campaign funding.

During the examination of Sarkozy's request earlier in the day, prosecutors recommended his release after 20 days in jail — a period the former president described as a "nightmare." A lower court in September found the right-wing politician—who served as head of state from 2007 to 2012 — guilty of seeking campaign funds from Moamer Kadhafi's Libya and sentenced him to five years in prison.

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. AFP FILE

He entered jail on October 21, becoming the first former head of a European Union state to be incarcerated. His lawyers quickly filed for his release. Sarkozy was expected to be released from La Santé prison in Paris later on Monday. The appeal hearing is scheduled for March.

Appearing via video call from prison during the court session, Sarkozy wore a dark blue jacket and was flanked by his lawyers. He described his time behind bars as "gruelling." "It's hard, very hard, certainly for any prisoner. I would even say it's gruelling," he said.

Maldives opens airport built with Indian aid

MALE, PTI

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu and India's Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, jointly inaugurated the Hanimaadhoo International Airport, a project completed with India's financial assistance.

In his address at the inauguration ceremony on Sunday, Muizzu described the airport as a "catalyst for unlocking the potential of the northern Maldives and enhancing global connectivity," according to a statement from the President's Office.

Calling it a "gateway to prosperity" for the north, he said, "This is not just an airport; it is a symbol of economic transformation." Muizzu said the newly opened airport would bring further advancement to tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and the economy, as well as promote social development in the north, the Sun.mv news portal reported.

He added that the airport serves as a monument to the strength of Maldives–India ties as the two countries mark 60 years of diplomatic relations this year, the Edition. mv news portal reported.

In a post on X, the Indian High Commission in the Maldives described the airport as a "true vehicle for progress and prosperity, and a symbol of India's commitment under the Neighbourhood First and MAHASAGAR vision."

China, Japan embroil in major diplomatic row over Taiwan

TOKYO, AP/PTI: Japan was involved in a war of words with China on Monday after Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's said a Chinese attack on Taiwan could constitute "a survival-threatening situation" for Japan requiring the use of force.

Takaichi, who is known to be pro-Taipei, said Friday that Chinese use of force around Taiwan would qualify as "an existential threat".

Her comment sparked sharp criticisms from Beijing over the weekend.

"We have no choice but cut off that dirty neck that has been lunged at us without hesitation. Are you ready?" Chinese Consul General Xue Jian said in a message posted on X, which was later deleted. Xue also criticised past remarks made by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other Japanese lawmakers that of "Taiwan emergency is Japan emergency" as "blatant interference of Chinese internal affairs and violation of sovereignty" that require a retraction and apology.

On Monday, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said Tokyo had protested to Beijing over Xue's X message. "While the intent of (Xue's) post is not entirely clear, we must say the comment ... was extremely inappropriate," Kihara said. Japan's Foreign Ministry has since lodged a "strong protest" and demanded the post deleted. Kihara urged China to provide an explanation.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/155/2025
Dated : 04-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Providing Project Management Services for Development of Vande Bharat Sleeper trains maintenance depot at Thanisandra Railway Station and Major upgradation of Tumakuru Railway Station through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contracts. **(Tender Ref. No. PMS-TK-STN-DEV-VANDEBHRAT)**	Rs. 10,95,43,438/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 05-01-2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/626/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/24
Dated : 04-11-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Modification of OHE due to shifting of points 63A & 63B with crossover with increase in length of 250m for RD-1 at Hirehalli Yard.	Rs. 82,96,920.37

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 26-11-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution / Bengaluru
PUB/624/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/25
Dated : 04.11.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modification in connection with increasing of sectional speed from 110kmph to 130 kmph in Bengaluru - Jolarpettai section and removal of redundant mast/portal in Bengaluru Division. [ii] OHE modification in connection with proposed construction of RUB at trespassing location at km 339/300-400 between Hoodi Halt - Krishnarajapuram stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bengaluru Sub-Division.	Rs. 1,23,73,500.54

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 26-11-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution/Bengaluru
PUB/625/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender No. : SDSTE-TIB-CIB-MGAE-RJG-25, dated 07.11.2025. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 invites Open e-Tenders against Tender No. SDSTE-TIB-CIB-MGAE-RJG-25 for the following work. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work:** Provision of CIB, TIB at Morgram, Sagardighi, Murarai, Rajgram stations over Howrah Division. **Bidding System:** Single packet, **Advertised Value:** Rs. 4,04,27,098.31, **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** Rs. 3,52,100/-, **Cost of Tender Doucment:** Rs. 0.00, **Period of Completion:** 6 months, **Validity of Offer:** 60 Days, **Date and Time of uploading Tender:** 07.11.2025 at 13:15 hrs., **Bidding Start Date:** 14.11.2025. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 28.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The details are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**
HWH-381/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Tender No. BR-HQ-KGP-25-26-07, dated 07.11.2025. e-Tender is invited by General Manager (Engg.), S.E.Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works: **Description of the work :** "Kharagpur Division–Regirdering of bridges for running of 25T Axle loaded freight trains @ 100 Kmph in (a) Bridge no. 4AC (2x6.10m+1x30.5m) & 7AC (1x30.5m) in between station Santragachi-Andul-Bankranayabaz (b) Bridge no. 3AC (1x18.3m) and 2A (1x18.3m) in between station Santragachi-Andul-Bankranayabaz (c) Bridge no. 56 UP (1x30.5m) and 56 DN (1x30.5m) in between station Galudih-Ghatsila (d) Bridge No. 66 UP (1x30.5m) and 66 DN (1x30.5m) in between station Dhalbhumgarh-Ghatsila (e) Bridge No. 51 UP (7x30.5m) in between station Kulgachia-Bagnan (f) Bridge no. 263 UP (4x18.3m+2x45.7m) in between station Haldipada-Balasore (g) Bridge No. 215 DN (1x18.3m+11x45.7m+1x18.3m) in between station Rajghat -Jaleswar (h) Bridge No. 215UP (1x18.3m+11x45.7m+1x18.3m) in between station Jaleswar-Rajghat." **Tender Value:** ₹ 279,57,39,480.46. **Earnest Money:** ` 1,00,00,000/-. **Tender Document Cost :** Nil. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 22.12.2025, 11.30 hrs. **Period of Completion :** 30 (Thirty) Months. Interested Tenderer's may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description of the tenders and to know the status of this tender so as to submit their bids online. Physical/ manual tender for this work will not be accepted. **(PR-815)**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Dr. Vallampatti Nageswara Rao S/o Vallampatti Appala Raju and Mrs. Vallampatti Bimba Annapurna W/o Dr. Vallampatti Nageswara Rao, residing at Flat No.C-2003, Block No.C-2 in the residential apartment building known as "ARTISANE FOREST BREEZE", situated at Doraisanipalya, Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore have represented themselves to be the joint and absolute owners (Owners) in possession and enjoyment of the Property described in the Schedule having acquired the same under the Registered Sale Deed dated 17.06.2022.
Our client has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from the said Owners subject to legal and marketable title and delivery of vacant possession free from all encumbrances.
Any person/s who may have any right or interest in the Schedule Property or otherwise objecting to the transaction may do so in writing to the undersigned within 10 days of this publication along with documentary proof failing which our client will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property whereafter no further claims will be entertained and /or the same will be deemed to have been waived or abandoned.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Residential Apartment bearing No.C-2003 in 3rd Floor, Block No.C-2, consisting of 3 Bedroom, Hall and Kitchen in the multi-storied residential apartment building known as 'ARTISANE FOREST BREEZE" having a super built up area of 2763 square feet bearing E.P.I.D No. 1476487699, constructed on the residentially converted property bearing Khata No.103/1036/941/764/882/3-3 (formed in Survey No.165/6) admeasuring 61,296 square feet, situated at Doraisanipalya, Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, together with 723 square feet undivided share, right, title and interest in the property bearing Khata No.103/1036/ 941/764/882/3-3 (formed in Survey No.165/6) admeasuring 61,296 square feet, situated at Doraisanipalya, Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore.
V.C.RAJU
For Vishwanath & Manasa, Advocates, # 11/1, I Cross, CSI Compound, Bangalore – 560 027, Ph. Nos. 9742477021/9845327803, E-mail: vishwanathandmanasa@gmail.com

JHARKHAND BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com/**gmsp.jbvnl@rediffmail.com**
1st Time Extension Notice
Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of online submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following tender notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

Sl. No.	NiTs No.	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of online submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	**213/PR/JBVNL/2025-26** Trolley mounted distribution sub-station with BIS Level-I, Cu. Wd. 500 KVA DTR along with all accessories & equipment	20.11.2025 upto 18:00 Hrs	20.11.2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.	21.11.2025 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NITs can be seen on website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Only online payment mode of submission of Tender Fee & EMD will be accepted.
PR No. 363738
स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।
Sd/-
DGM (Purchase)
JBVNL
PR.NO.365712 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(25-26):D

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi
सत्यमेव जयते
Advertisement for the post of Member of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) Extension of last date for submission of Application
This is with reference to the advertisement published on 30th September 2025 inviting applications for selection to the post of Member, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
2. Last date for submission of application, in die prescribed format and complete in all respects, is hereby extended till 24.11.2025. All other conditions shall remain unchanged. The details of age limit, Essential Qualification and Experience etc. along with prescribed format for application are available on the website of the Ministry of Civil Aviation at www.civilaviation.gov.in and Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India at www.aera.gov.in.
Sd/- (Rubina Ali)
Joint Secretary
CBC 03112/12/0012/2526

Striking a balance in the confusing world of children

NIMESH VED

During a recent bus trip, I came across a group of school students singing *Maati Kahe Kumhar Se, Tu Kya Rondhe Mohe*—a philosophical poem by Kabir that projects the point of view of soil, which they often began their days at school with.

A few minutes later, they followed it up with *Chaar Bottle Vodka, Kaam Mera Roz Ka*—a song that often accompanied them when they were 'chilling' with peers during the later part of the day: Kabir and Honey Singh, one after the other.

This perhaps aptly brought out one of the challenges that today's schoolchildren face—the trapezing between different worlds.

In some of these scenarios, the children can express themselves clearly. A few years ago, I overheard a child convey her frustration to her friend. It was election time, and her father and her teacher were at opposite ends of the

ideological spectrum. When at home, she would have to listen to her father admonish his political counterparts. At school, her teacher was a woke person who generously shared her ideological views in the classroom.

Neither of them was willing to engage in conversation, to agree or disagree, or even to seek the child's views. Both, however, were keen to catch her young and make her subscribe to their worldviews. All they succeeded in was making her feel miserable.

'Ideology' is not the only animal in this forest; there are other species like 'food', 'importance ascribed to marks', and 'freedom'.

It is not just the chasm between homes and schools, but also the chasms children observe within their homes and schools. It is also the difference between preaching and practising. Parents who seldom read insist that their child read books.

Children often come across parents who, on social media, are all for patriotism—aka love for their country and its grand history, and for protecting it. However, they choose Switzerland for pleasure trips, Australia for studies, or Canada for a new citizenship.

Then there are challenges that we, as a society, force on them. Challenges the children find difficult to grasp. Today, the divide—the distance—between the haves and have-nots is only getting starker. As we increasingly interact and exist only within our worlds, we are unaware of the worlds beyond ours.

To add to this, the actions of those in power and our choices ensure that we will soon be, if we are not already, insulated from all that is not part of our world. Today, a child in an English-medium school in Gurgaon or Noida is more aware of the lifestyle in New York and San Francisco than that of a child living in a slum a few minutes' drive from her home.

Trapezing is exciting, but it's effective only when you have good balance and coordination. The lives of children warrant deeper introspection and serious course correction; however, before parents and teachers can be of any help to the children, they need to get their act together.

(The author works in education sector)

Building strength in every child

If a teacher gives extra attention to struggling students, it can help them feel included, writes Anitha Ramachander

According to teachers, some students excel in all tests and consistently top all assignments, while others do not perform as well as expected. These students are often labelled as "weak."

Students, on the other hand, say there are two types of teachers: those who care, mentor, and guide them without discrimination, and others who constantly criticise students for underperforming in tests, exams, and activities.

Labelling a student as bad or weak can have a lasting negative impact, affecting not only how others see them but also how they view themselves. As Texas-based educator Rita F Pierson said, "Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

Understanding that each student is unique, learns at their own pace, and has different abilities, we should avoid labelling them as "weak." Instead, we should describe them as those who are "struggling."

Unfortunately, in India, our education system often displays this discrimination from childhood, and it continues until students finish their formal education. This creates a lasting impression on their lives. Most teachers, from elementary to college level, lack the skills to support these students effectively.

The so-called "ace students" are asked to sit in the front and receive special attention, yet the real focus should be on students who are struggling. Being called 'last benchers' is not accidental. Neglect and exclusion only worsen the prospects for students who could have excelled if they had been mentored at the right time.

It often starts with gossip in the staff room and the formation of alliances with colleagues to label students. This is how it begins with sidelining these students forever. Instead of helping them succeed, this usually pushes students further behind. Some teachers scold and humiliate students in front of their peers.

If a teacher gives extra attention to struggling students, it can help them feel included. Our history shows that early struggles do not determine a person's ultimate potential. Einstein was considered slow, and Edison was dismissed as 'addled'. Many Indian achievers, entrepreneurs, athletes, and artists, although dismissed early, went on to succeed because they found a mentor who believed in them.

Before dismissing a student as weak, teachers need to find out why they are struggling:

- Are they lacking a solid foundation in the basics?
- Are they battling low confidence?
- Are they afraid of failure?
- Do they need a different learning style?
- Are family or social pressures affecting them?

Grades or marks alone cannot be the only measure of success. Not everyone can be the top scorer in a class of 40. We still believe that marks and grades matter, but that mindset needs to change. Today, opportunities are abundant. We can help each student find a field where they excel, instead of overlooking their learning needs. When teachers show genuine care without judgment, struggling students are more likely to open up and feel supported. The following steps help ensure all students are treated equally.

- **Individual attention:** Even in large classes, teachers can connect by staying after class for a few minutes, sharing resources, and encouraging shy students. This will motivate them to participate in all activities.
- **Create safe spaces:** Students should feel comfortable taking risks and making mistakes. Curiosity grows with guidance, but humiliation kills it. Teachers should remember not to gossip, shout, or publicly humiliate the student for not meeting expectations. They deserve dignity and care.
- **Rejoice in small wins:** Encouraging and praising even minor progress helps build confidence. When they see a teacher who says, "I believe in you, even if you don't believe in yourself," it nurtures their resilience and strength, helping them excel.
- **Promote peer learning:** encourage them to learn with their peers without dividing them by academic performance. This will significantly help in showing their inclusion in activities without discrimination. Peer learning helps improve academic performance, critical thinking, and social skills.
- **Use diverse teaching methods:** Not all learners learn the same way. It is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Identifying individual learning needs and incorporating various methods, modifying content, and assessments to meet the needs of struggling students will engage learners in the learning process.
- **Failure is a learning opportunity:** Encourage students to see it as a chance to learn, and teach them to recover from setbacks by setting small milestones.

Each student's growth path varies. Instead of judging students solely on their academic results, education should aim to help them reach their full potential. Respect and trust from teachers have the power to transform lives, heal wounds and scars, and boost self-esteem. Students need encouragement and the belief that they can succeed. A teacher's confidence in their students is more influential than any textbook.

(The author is a Chief Academic Officer at a B-school in Bengaluru)

BULLETIN BOARD

The Akademie Schloss Solitude Fellowship 2025
Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart, Germany, is offering a fellowship to international artists, researchers, or cultural professionals from all disciplines with 2-10 years of professional practice. They should have proficiency in German or English and be willing to reside in Stuttgart for the entire fellowship duration. Deadline: November 14. Apply: https://t.ly/gH_f4

SBI Asha Scholarship
This fellowship is open to school, undergraduate, and postgraduate students who have scored above 7 CGPA/ 75% and have an annual income of no more than Rs 3 lakh. Last date: November 15. Chekc details and apply: https://t.ly/3QltE

Aide for SC/ST students
The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, is awarding the National Fellowship Scheme to students who have completed their Master's degree and wish to pursue an MPhil or PhD. National Scholarship Scheme is for students who want to pursue graduate or postgraduate courses in Management, Medicine, Engineering, Information Technology, Law, etc. Last date: November 15. Details: https://t.ly/gR2KE

Graphic design internship
InAmigos Foundation is hiring graphic design interns who can work from home. Students with spoken English proficiency can apply by December 5. The stipend is Rs 1,500-3,500/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/b8bEe.

Mathematics internship
Kunduz Technologies is hiring student interns with expertise in mathematics to work from home. Students with knowledge of mathematics, proficiency in spoken English, and teaching experience can apply by December 5. The stipend is Rs 5,000-6,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/lTzOL.

Customer service internship
Sugar.fit is hiring customer service/customer support interns in Bengaluru. Students who can communicate effectively and speak English fluently can apply by November 30. The stipend is Rs 15,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/7RGwA.

Sales development internship
Prost Technologies Private Limited (OneAssure) is hiring sales development (B2B sales) interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of B2B Sales, adaptability, proficiency in spoken and written English, interpersonal skills, and prospecting can apply by November 29. The stipend is Rs 15,000-20,000/month. Apply at: https://shorturl.at/lCRMM.

Your well-being is more than doing well at work

MAULLIKA SHARMA

Many of you may have been told to "study hard so that the rest of your life will be good." Some might even have been encouraged to drop everything else and study 16+ hours a day because their future supposedly depends on their marks. As a result, you may have entered the workplace with the mistaken belief that if you work hard and pour all your energy into your job—often at the expense of everything else—you'll automatically have a great life and a sense of wellbeing.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

Your sense of well-being comes from many aspects of life—not just your work. You can be at the top of your game professionally and still feel unfulfilled or unhappy.

Maybe you've ignored your relationships along the way. Maybe you didn't have time for family. Perhaps you didn't nurture your connections with others because you thought it wasn't a good use of time while racing ahead professionally. Maybe you've neglected your physical and mental health. Or perhaps your finances are a mess—despite your hard work—because you never planned your savings or expenses properly. Maybe you stopped investing in your own growth and now feel stagnant and bored.

The truth is, there are many dimensions to wellbeing. To live a fulfilling life, you need to pay attention to all of them—not just one or two. So, what are these dimensions?

- **Physical health:** Take proactive steps to maintain your health. Eat mindfully, sleep well, exercise regularly, and schedule routine health check-ups to help detect potential issues early.
- **Emotional and mental health:** Work on your emotional resilience—everything we've discussed in this column so far. Reflect on your triggers, understand your emotions, recognise your vulnerabilities, and seek help when needed.
- **Intellectual growth:** Keep your mind active and curious. Learn something new—take a course, explore a language, read widely, or pick up a hobby unrelated to work. Stay open to new ideas and experiences.
- **Social and interpersonal wellbeing:** Make time for relationships that matter—partners, children, parents, siblings, friends, colleagues, and community members. Be present. Listen with empathy. Practice inclusivity and non-judgment.
- **Spiritual well-being:** Find your sense of meaning and purpose. Discover your "why." This doesn't have to be tied to any religion or ritual—it's about what gives your life depth and direction.
- **Environmental well-being:** Take care of your surroundings—from your desk and home to the planet. Conserve resources, live sustainably, and do your part to minimise your carbon footprint.
- **Occupational well-being:** Ask yourself—do you enjoy your work? Are you learning and growing? Does your job feel enriching and meaningful?
- **Financial well-being:** Pay attention to your earnings, expenses, budgets, savings, taxes, and investments. Live within your means and plan for the future. Financial stability gives you the freedom to make future choices that better align with your values.

If you think of these eight dimensions as the eight slices of a pizza called life, then for the pizza to be whole and round, each slice needs to be balanced and roughly of the same size. After all, who wants a pizza that's not round?

(The author is a counsellor)

Suggestions? Feedback? Comments? Write to us:
dheducation@deccanherald.co.in

Happy hour with coworkers can be a double-edged sword

It turns out happy hour with coworkers may not be so happy for everyone. New research from the University of Georgia, published in *Personnel Psychology*, suggests that there are both positives and negatives to getting an invite to after-work events, but the impact depends on the person.

While extroverts tend to feel good about themselves and their workplace when they get after-work invites, those with more reserved personalities can become more withdrawn and stressed when they receive them.

"We always think that social activity is so great, right? If you're social with your coworkers, you feel energised and connected. But those invitations are not necessarily always good," said Joanna Lin, corresponding author of the study, and a Professor of Management in the UGA Terry College of Business, Georgia.

"There's a social pressure that makes people feel like they have to say yes and need to be there. These outings seem like an obligation, even if they're supposed to be something fun."

Feeling pressure with invitations

Across multiple experiential and field studies and surveys with hundreds of full-time employees, Lin found that social invitations extended to coworkers don't always create a feeling of belonging.

Some workers who receive invitations to events like dinners, parties, or bowling after work experience a profound sense of gratitude. The researchers found that these folks tend to be more social, with higher social confidence than others.

Contrarily, the study showed that workers who identified as shy or less confident in social settings felt pressured when asked to hang out with their coworkers, at the cost of their own stress levels.

"If you're a social butterfly, you're really good at interacting with others, so that doesn't cause strife. When you already have a hard time being social, however, that sense of expectation contributes to the stress. You feel generally grateful for their gesture to include you in this social event, but are worried about your social skills," Lin said.

Those who anticipated added pressure to perform socially after work also became more anxious, regardless of whether they accepted the invite, leading them to feel tense and unproductive at work during that waiting period.

Understanding yourself

"There's also that uncertainty. 'If I say yes, how long will it take? Who else is going? Or if I say no, what are the consequences? Maybe my coworker will be mad at me, or I will feel left out.' There are lots of psychological decision-making points that a simple invite causes," Lin said.

Acknowledging one's own preferences and well-being in the workplace can make people feel better overall, the researchers found. That could make one more equipped to handle the possible added stress of social gatherings.

It's also important for those in workplaces to know each other and to consider the potential impact of invites before they're given. It doesn't hurt to consider when you ask someone to hang out, either.

"When we initiate this invitation, it has unintended consequences to employee performance for that day," she said. "I think we should be mindful of when we give it. You may think you're going to help this person by inviting them, but on the other hand, you could be making that person think, 'Oh my god, what am I going to do?'"

Researchers also said there is a need to understand additional factors in the invite process, such as whether a supervisor is giving the invite, whether you say yes when you don't want to, and whether you feel more socially confident and are likely to say yes again after the event concludes.

- PHYS.ORG

Govt proposes mandatory 'country of origin' filters for ecom platforms

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

To enhance transparency at digital marketplaces, the Consumer Affairs Ministry has proposed to make it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to provide searchable and sortable filters based on 'country of origin' for packaged commodities.

The Ministry has issued the Draft Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Second) Amendment Rules, 2025, proposing to make it mandatory for e-commerce platforms to provide searchable and sortable filters based on the 'Country of Origin' for packaged commodities sold online.

"This will enhance consumer empowerment and transparency in online shopping. This amendment seeks to empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions by allowing them to easily identify the origin of products while shopping online. The proposed feature will enable consumers to search and sort products by their country of origin, thereby enhancing transparency and reducing the time required to locate such information across vast product listings," the statement said.

The draft amendment rules have been published on the department's website for public consultation. Comments from stakeholders are invited until November 22, 2025. The amendment directly supports the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives by making 'Made in India' products easily discoverable.

It is expected to ensure a level-playing field for Indian manufacturers, helping domestic products gain equal visibility alongside imported goods and encouraging consumers to choose locally made alternatives.

The introduction of country-of-origin filters will also assist authorities in efficiently monitoring compliance, verifying product information and identifying violations without requiring manual review of each listing, the ministry said.

India to allow 15 lakh tonnes of sugar export in 2025-26 season

ISMA pitches for more exports to improve industry viability

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government has decided to allow export of 15 lakh tonnes of sugar in the 2025-26 sugar season that started from October 1, industry lobby said on Monday.

In the last sugar season that ended on September 30, the central government had allowed export of 10 lakh tonnes of the white sweetener. However, the actual export during the year stood at 8 lakh tonnes.

Sugar lobby the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) welcomed the move to allow higher exports in the current season when compared with the previous year. However, it also urged the government to allow additional exports to improve the viability of the sugar industry in the country.

"This timely move will enable sugar mills to plan their production in advance, channel surplus sugar into global markets, and help maintain domestic price stability," ISMA said in a statement.

The industry lobby has been pitching for higher quota for exports of sugar as domestic prices remain comparatively low due to high supplies.

As per ISMA's First Advance Estimates released last week, India's net sugar production for 2025–26 sugar season is projected at 309.5 lakh tons, after accounting for 34 lakh tons diverted towards ethanol production. The domestic consumption is pegged at 285 lakh tonnes.

Based on these estimates, India is expected to have a closing stock of nearly 74.5 lakh tonnes of sugar in the current sugar season. ISMA said the 74.5 lakh tonnes of closing stock in the current season gives room for further exports.

"We thank the Government for its timely and progressive decision to permit sugar exports. These steps reflect a balanced approach to managing domestic and global market realities," said ISMA Director General Deepak Ballani.

"At the same time, we urge the Government to consider revising the sugar MSP and ethanol procurement prices to ensure the financial health of the industry and timely cane payments to farmers," Ballani said.

The Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar has remained unchanged at Rs 31 per kg for the past over six years. The ISMA has requested the government to increase sugar MSP to Rs 40-41 per kg. It has also pitched for fair ethanol procurement pricing.

With recent increases in sugarcane prices announced by key producing states such as Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, the cost of sugar production for 2025–26 is estimated to rise sharply to around Rs 41.7 per kg. "An upward revision in MSP is therefore essential to ensure that sugar mills remain viable, are able to make timely payments to farmers, and maintain overall financial stability within the sector," ISMA said.

"The volume of sugar exports will also be influenced by international market prices, which are presently experiencing a downward trend due to record-high sugar production in Brazil," said Ankit Jain, Vice President and Co-Group Head Corporate Sector Ratings, ICRA.

Goldman Sachs upgrades India back to 'overweight'

Sees Nifty rising 14% by 2026-end

BENGALURU, REUTERS

Goldman Sachs upgraded India to "overweight" from "neutral", reversing its October 2024 downgrade, citing strengthening earnings momentum and policy tailwinds supporting growth.

The global brokerage has set a 2026 year-end target of 29,000 for the benchmark index Nifty 50, implying a 14% upside from Friday's close.

The index has risen about 8.5% year-to-date, lagging other emerging markets in one of their strongest years.

However, analysts led by Sunil Koul said the "year-long earnings downgrade cycle" has bottomed out, paving the way for recovery.

Goldman cited a combination of growth-supportive policies, including rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India, liquidity easing, bank deregulation, goods and services tax (GST) reductions and a slower pace of fiscal consolidation, as key drivers for the turnaround, in a note post market hours on Friday.

The brokerage noted that September-quarter results have largely surprised on the upside, prompting earnings upgrades in select sectors.

It expects financials, consumer staples, durables, autos, defence, oil marketing companies and internet and telecom firms to lead this recovery, while remaining cautious on export-oriented IT, pharma, industrials and chemicals amid earnings headwinds and moderating public capex.

Despite foreign portfolio investors selling about $30 billion since the Nifty's 2024 peak and $17.4 billion in 2025 so far, Goldman sees signs of a turnaround, helped by record $70 billion of equity purchases by domestic institutions backed by steady retail and SIP inflows.

With India's valuation premium to emerging markets now sharply lower compared to September 2024 levels, Goldman said it has become "defensible," even if India remains the priciest among peers.

Amid rising geopolitical and trade risks, Goldman highlighted themes such as domestic self-sufficiency, revival in mass consumption, new-economy sectors and high-growth pockets at fair valuations as key to generating strong returns.

Goldman Sachs' India upgrade follows a similar move by HSBC in late September, citing improving earnings and policy support.

GCC model is entering a pivotal phase: Nasscom

BENGALURU, DHNS

The GCC (Global Capability Centre) model is entering a pivotal phase, demanding deep partnerships and rapid movement to leverage these centres as primary engines of innovation, resilience, and enterprise value, said Nasscom.

In its latest report, 'Forging Ahead: Strategic Partnerships Between GCCs and Service Providers', developed with Oliver Wyman and R Systems, Nasscom reveals how deeper collaborations are redefining value creation for global enterprises.

For India, the next decade of global digital progress will be built on partnership models architected in India, where GCCs and service providers jointly define how enterprises grow, innovate, and compete, it said. Currently, there are over 1,760 GCCs, and they employ nearly 1.9 million professionals. Nearly 70% of all new GCCs set up across Asia are choosing India for its talent density, and its growing ecosystem of deep-tech capability, it added.

The report identifies a new operating construct for the Next-Gen GCCs that is built on strategic partnerships between headquarters, GCCs, and tech service providers. These are integrated ecosystems where partners jointly co-create, run, and scale capabilities.

Flexible models such as Build-Operate-Transfer/Manage (B-O-X), Joint Ventures, Modern Talent Augmentation, and Co-Innovation Partnerships are reshaping how enterprises accelerate transformation at speed and scale, it further added.

The report outlines five building blocks for success: a shared enterprise vision, operating excellence, resilient governance, magnetic talent, and technology-led innovation. For Service Providers, it said the imperative is deeper play and more adaptability, requiring investment in specialised talent, defining a forward value proposition, and tweaking operating models.

Recently, Quess Corp highlighted a steady 5-7% QoQ rise in hiring activity across the country's GCCs. It said sectors like BFSI, manufacturing, automotive, energy, technology and hardware have become the main pillars of GCC growth.

Varun Berry quits Britannia

NEW DELHI, PTI: Britannia Industries on Monday said its Vice-Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Varun Berry has resigned.

The company has appointed Rakshit Hargave as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, with effect from December 15, 2025, Britannia Industries Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

In the interim, N Venkataraman, currently the Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, will hold additional charge as CEO of the company till the joining of Hargave, it added.

Berry submitted his resignation and proposed to serve the notice period as per his employment contract.

The board accepted his resignation and waived his obligation to serve the notice period, the company said.

"Accordingly, his resignation shall be effective, and he shall be relieved from the close of business hours today, November 10, 2025, from his position," it added.

IN BRIEF

Lenskart Solutions shares make muted debut on bourses

NEW DELHI, PTI: Shares of eyewear retailer Lenskart Solutions ended almost flat in its debut trade on Monday, after listing with a discount of about 3% against the issue price. The stock was listed at Rs 390 on BSE, down by 2.98% from the issue price. In the early trade, it tanked 11.52% to touch an intraday low of Rs 355.70.

However, the scrip soon recovered all losses and climbed 2.93% to Rs 413.80. Shares of the firm finally ended at Rs 403.30 apiece, marginally up by 0.32%.

On the NSE, shares of the firm started trading at Rs 395 apiece, a discount of 1.74%. The stock finally ended 0.63% up at Rs 404.55.

At the end of the trading session, the company's market capitalisation stood at Rs 70,184.17 crore on the NSE.

In volume terms, 13.15 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE and 93.57 lakh shares changed hands on the BSE.

Emmvee IPO opens today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Emmvee Photovoltaic Power Limited, a manufacturer of solar PV modules and cells, proposes to open an initial public offering of its equity shares of face value of Rs 2 each on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. The issue closes on November 13.

The price band of the offer has been fixed from Rs 206 per equity share of face value Rs 2 each to Rs 217 per equity share of face value Rs 2 each. Bids can be made for a minimum of 69 equity shares of face value Rs 2 each and multiples of 69 equity shares of face value Rs 2 each thereafter.

The offer comprises a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs 2,143.86 crore and an offer for sale of up to Rs 756.14 crore by existing shareholders, Manjunatha Donthi Venkatarathnaiah and Shubha Manjunatha Donthi (Promoter Selling Shareholders). The equity shares of the company are proposed to be listed on BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

Rupee falls 8 paise against US $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 8 paise to settle at 88.73 against the US dollar in a muted session on Monday, weighed down by elevated crude oil prices.

However, positive domestic equity markets and a soft US dollar cushioned the rupee's downside, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 88.64 against the American currency, and touched an intraday high of 88.64 and a low of 88.73 against the greenback during the day. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 88.73, lower by 8 paise from its previous close.

On Friday, the rupee slipped 2 paise to 88.65 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight negative bias on rising global markets and a surge in crude oil prices. Importers' demand for the US dollar may also put pressure on the rupee.

"However, any weakening of the US dollar amid concerns over the long-term health of the US economy may support the rupee at lower levels. Markets may remain volatile as the US Government shutdown nears an end. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 88.50 to 89," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, Mirae Asset ShareKhan.

Stock markets snap 3-day decline

MUMBAI, PTI: Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back on Monday after three straight days of losses following buying in IT and financial shares and a rally in global peers after a breakthrough in the US government shutdown.

The 30-share BSE Sensex benchmark climbed 319.07 points, or 0.38%, to close at 83,535.35. In the intraday session, the index rallied 538.21 points, or 0.64%, to hit a high of 83,754.49.

The NSE Nifty advanced 82.05 points, or 0.32%, to settle at 25,574.35. During the day, it climbed 161.15 points or 0.63% to hit an intraday high of 25,653.45.

Among the Sensex firms, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, Asian Paints, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Consultancy Services, Bharti Airtel, Titan, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries and Larsen & Toubro were the gainers. Trent Ltd, Eternal, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Hindustan Unilever and NTPC were the laggards.

"The potential resolution of the US government shutdown, coupled with renewed FIIs buying driven by a favourable Q2 earnings season, supported a positive sentiment in the market," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments, said.

Vodafone Idea Q2 net loss narrows

NEW DELHI, PTI: Debt-ridden telecom operator Vodafone Idea on Monday said its consolidated net loss year-on-year narrowed to Rs 5,524 crore in the second quarter ended September 2025.

The company had posted a net loss of Rs 7,175.9 crore in the year-ago period, according to the company's regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from operations increased 2.4% to Rs 11,195 crore during the reported quarter from Rs 10,932.2 crore a year ago.

The customer ARPU (average revenue per user) rose 8.7% year-on-year to Rs 180 in the reported quarter from Rs 166 in the September 2025 quarter, mainly due to customer upgrades and tariff increases, the company said.

The total debt stood at Rs 2,02,951 crore at the end of the reported quarter.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-5/2025-26/4208 Date : 07/11/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT TWO COVER SYSTEM)

1) Name of work 1. Improvements of Hanadi Road from Allur B Village Dhari Hola to Dandagunda Main road in Chittapur Taluka Indent No.20165, 2. Improvements of Hanadi from Konchur to Kulkunda Village in Chittapur Taluka Indent No.20196, 3. Improvements to road from Itaga village to Kanti Road (3.00 KM) in Jewargi Taluka Indent No. 19494, 4. Construction of Road and bridge from Syed Chincholi Jamga main road to Ganajalkhed cross vial Kere 0.00 km to 4.00km in Kalaburagi Taluka Indent No.18892, 2) Head of account : 5054 Flood Damage & 3054 LUMP, 3) Amount put to tender- 20165-12883945.88, 20196-10906900.79, 19494-15120264.89, 18892-10494768.37. 4) Class of Contractor : Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: 07-11-2025 to 19-11-2025 upto 4.00 pm, 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: 20165-200000, 20196-200000, 19494-227000, 18892-200000 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: 07-11-2025 to 19-11-2025 upto 4.00 pm, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: 20-11-2025 After 4.00 pm, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: 24-11-2025 After 11.00 am, 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/695/KSMC&A/2025-26 Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/DGM(P)/AGM(P-2)/2025-26/24223 Date: 06.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

A.CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Services of Repair & reconditioning of conventional type and all star rated 25, 63, 100 kVA, 11kV class aluminum wound Distribution Transformers and conversion of sealed/CSP type transformers to conventional type under buy back scheme at Taluk headquarters as mentioned below:

Sl No.	Nomenclature of the work	Enquiry No / Date	Sl No	Name of the Taluk	Enquiry No / Date
1	Arakalagudu	C2-6376/05.11.2025	14	Beluru	C2-6389/05.11.2025
2	Banawara	C2-6377/05.11.2025	15	Srirangapattana	C2-6390/05.11.2025
3	C.R.Pattana	C2-6378/05.11.2025	16	Pandavapura	C2-6391/05.11.2025
4	Hannuru	C2-6379/05.11.2025	17	Gundlupete	C2-6392/05.11.2025
5	Hunsuru	C2-6380/05.11.2025	18	Chamarajanagara	C2-6393/05.11.2025
6	K.R.Pete	C2-6381/05.11.2025	19	Kushalnagara	C2-6394/05.11.2025
7	Madduru	C2-6382/05.11.2025	20	K.R.Nagara	C2-6395/05.11.2025
8	Malavalli	C2-6383/05.11.2025	21	Arasikere	C2-6396/05.11.2025
9	Mandya	C2-6384/05.11.2025	22	Holenarasipura	C2-6397/05.11.2025
10	Nagamangala	C2-6385/05.11.2025	23	T.Narasipura	C2-6398/05.11.2025
11	Nanjangudu	C2-6386/05.11.2025	24	Periyapattana	C2-6399/05.11.2025
12	N.R.Mohalla & V.V.Mohalla	C2-6387/05.11.2025	25	Kollegala & Yalanduru	C2-6400/05.11.2025
13	Sakaleshpura	C2-6388/05.11.2025	26	H.D.Kote	C2-6401/05.11.2025
B	Providing 788 Nos of Line helpers through outsource agency to carry out line works in CESC Jurisdiction for a period of Two years on total turnkey basis				C2-6402/ 05.11.2025
C	Supply of Double Pole TC Set for 4/5 Star Rated 25/63/100 kVA Transformers using 9m RCC Pole 145kg WL – Pole-GI				C2-6421/ 05.11.2025

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **13.11.2025** For clarification contact help desk +91-8046010000/22631200/68948777 or e-mail address **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

Sd/-
DIPR/MYSORE/1197/SSC/2025-26 General Manager (Procurement), CESC, Mysuru

HIRE AND FIRE

72% of layoffs in India are done in fire-at-will style: Survey

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

As layoffs created a lot of anxiety in the tech industry in recent times, at least 72% of Indian professionals who experienced or witnessed layoffs were informed on the same day or the day before, according to a new survey by Blind, the anonymous community app for verified professionals. The findings, based on responses from 1,396 professionals between October 29 and November 5, point to widespread abuse of legal loopholes by global tech firms operating in the country.

For most affected employees, the layoff process lacked both legal compliance and humane communication. 72% were informed within just two days of their last working day.

The rate was especially high at Amazon, Target and Freshworks, exceeding 90% according to the survey by Blind. Only 18% said they received any advance notice (one to three months) as mandated by law.

Many multinational companies (MNCs) operating in India's tech and service sectors have long taken advantage of a gap in the country's labour framework that excludes IT and managerial staff from the "workmen" category. This allows them to legally bypass mandatory notice periods and government approval under the Industrial Disputes Act (IDA), leaving tens of millions of white-collar professionals outside the scope of labour protections.

Beyond the legal gaps, the way layoffs are executed is often one-sided. 37% were informed via Zoom or Teams calls, 23% received impersonal email notifications, and 13% discovered they had been terminated only after their system access was suddenly cut off.

Even when sudden layoffs technically breach the spirit of the law, companies frequently use "in lieu of notice" payments to avoid penalties — paying a short-term severance instead of giving advance warning.

On Blind, several affected professionals shared how these practices are eroding trust and mental security within India's tech scene. "It's a cruel psychological game: keep people anxious, hoping some will quit voluntarily, saving the company money on severance," wrote an employee from Amazon India.

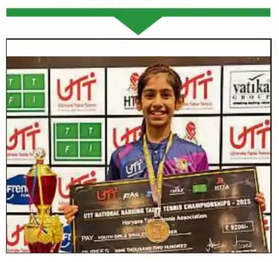
Another user from Samsung pointed to shared resilience, saying, "All I can think of is to become proficient at doing something on our own. It could be small, but that ability gives some sense of security."

Blind surveyed 1,396 verified Indian professionals via its app from October 29 to November 5, 2025, to examine the current landscape of layoffs in India.

Bay Area in USA headquartered Blind is an anonymous app where 12 million verified professionals worldwide engage in conversations across companies and industries.

Over 90% of employees at Meta, Uber, PayPal, and Capital One, as well as more than 70% of Microsoft employees in India, are users of the platform.

IN BRIEF



State's Sakshya grabs gold

▸ Karnataka paddler Sakshya Santhosh (**in pic**) won the gold medal in the girls' U-11l category of the National Ranking TT Championships in Panchkula on Monday, reports DHNS.

Sakshya defeated West Bengal's Debanna Ari in straight games 12-10, 11-6, 11-5 (3-0) to seal the title.

Selection trials for U-15 girls

▸ KSCA will be conducting selection trials in the girls' under-15 category on November 16 from 9:30 am to pick three/ four teams, reports DHNS.

Interested girls are requested to report by 8.00 am in cricketing attire with a photocopy copy of their birth certificate.

Girls below the age of 12 years will not be permitted to attend the trials.

Star Track meet on Dec 13

▸ The Star Track Athletic Club has rescheduled the State Inter-school Athletic Meet to Dec 13 due to Dasara holidays and Rajyotsava Day celebrations, reports DHNS.

The meet will take place at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium and will consist of events from U-9 to U-19 categories for both boys and girls. All entries must come through the participating school.

Chotrani goes down in final

▸ Indian squash player Veer Chotrani suffered a 1-3 loss to Mexican top seed Leonel Cardenas in the final of the St James Expression Open, in Springfield, USA, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Ashwa Tokyo for main event

DELHI SELECTIONS

Ashwa Tokyo, from the stables of S Nawab and to be piloted by Narendra Kumar, appeals most in the small field of five runners in the fray for the Champion Sprinters Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races on Tuesday. The first race starts at 2:15 pm.

1. Romantic Hero Plate - 1600M: Master Multitude 1, Jet Sukhoi 2, Ashwa Sultan 3.
2. Celine Dion Plate - 1400M: Telekinesis 1, Ashwa Sabira 2, Cletus 3.
3. Taurian Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Big Daddy 1, Emperor Ashoka 2, Lady Danger 3.
4. Taurian Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Nairobi 1, Beejay 2, Tequila 3.
5. Champion Sprinters Cup - 1200M: Ashwa Tokyo 1, Wonderfull Lady 2, Ashwa Bravo 3.
6. Desert Eagle Plate - 1100M: Ashwa Harbir 1, Lemon Pie 2, Ticker 3.
Day's best: Nairobi. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

Karnataka seal final berth

BENGALURU, DHNS: Shreya S Chavan scored a fifty while Deeksha J and Vandita K Rao returned with economical figures as Karnataka beat Baroda by 48 runs and will play Andhra for the U-19 Women's T20 Trophy title at the JU Second Campus in Salt Lake, Kolkata.

Batting first, Karnataka, riding on Shreya (58) and Karnika Karthick (27), posted 117 for six in 20 overs. Riddhi Singh (2/29) was the pick of the bowlers for Baroda.

Brief scores: Karnataka: 117/6 in 20 overs (Shreya S Chavan 58, Karnika Karthick 27 n.o.; Riddhi Singh 2/29) bt Baroda: 69 all out in 19.2 overs (Deeksha J 2/29, Vandita K Rao 2-21).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Ranji Trophy: Delhi vs J&K, Vidarbha vs Odisha. **(Day 4, 9:30 am). LIVE** on **JioHotstar.**

TENNIS

ATP Finals: Doubles round robin **(4:00 pm)**, Singles round robin **(6:30 pm). LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

'India not where it wants to be in terms of T20 WC prep'

Head coach Gambhir calls the dressing room 'very transparent'

NEW DELHI, PTI

The Indian cricket team is not where it "wants to be" in terms of its preparations for next year's T20 World Cup yet but head coach Gautam Gambhir says there is enough time in hand to get there.

In an interview with 'bcci.tv', Gambhir said the players needed to take their fitness to the next level as India prepare to defend the title at home.

"It has been a very transparent dressing room, it has been a very honest dressing room and that is how we want this dressing room to be. I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup," he said.

"From the fitness point of view, I think we still aren't where we want to be come the T20 World Cup. And that is exactly the conversation that we've had with the boys as well. We want to be absolutely sharp. We want to be fit. We want to move quicker.

"The fitter we are, the more mentally strong we are. Because come the pressure games come the pressure situation, the more physically strong you are, the more mentally strong you are. We still have three months to be where we want to be," said the former India opener.

The T20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in February-March next year.

India coach Gautam Gambhir (right) said the idea behind Jasprit Bumrah bowling three overs at the start in T20Is is to show their aggressive side in the bowling department. REUTERS

Trump card

Gambhir also spoke about the logic behind using trump card Jasprit Bumrah for three overs in the powerplay during the recent Asia Cup that India won.

"A lot of people relate to this T20 side as a very aggressive batting lineup. For me I think bowling Jassi 3 in the first six was an even more aggressive option with the ball. We don't want to be a side which is only known as an aggressive batting order, we want to be a side which should be known as an aggressive side overall," he said.

"We wanted to go that way as well (Bumrah bowling three in PP), we wanted to see how it pans out, we wanted to see where it takes us in future as well, and I thought that Asia Cup, it has really worked well for us, because bowling Jassi in the first three obviously makes us win the powerplay most of the time...

"...and then obviously we got two wicket-taking options in the middle with Varun (Chakravarthy) and Kuldeep (Yadav), so it gives them a lot of leverage to bowl with freedom in the middle phase, and we can take wickets all the time...I think it was a very aggressive move," said Gambhir.

Bowling options

In the Gambhir era, India have preferred to have batting till number eight. The head coach said it is also important the team has seven to eight bowling options and that is only possible by packing in all-rounders like Shivam Dube, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar in the playing eleven.

"Look the more the merrier (all-rounders), that is something which is important, it is always better to have more options than less options, so many times in the past we have always thought about having a 6 bowling options, and this T20 side we have got 7 or 8 bowling options, which is always important.

"... for years and years we kept talking about, that how can we have guys who can give us couple of overs, be it in a T20 game or in a 50 over game, now we are trying to develop guys who can give us overs, and who can bat in the middle or in different phases as well, so I think it is always good to have those kind of options," said Gambhir.

The head coach is confident that the likes of Washington and Axar will excel in the T20 World Cup.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Fascinating final day on the cards in Pune

Mayank guides Karnataka to 144/5 as Mukesh shines for Maharashtra

BENGALURU, DHNS

Mayank Agarwal (64 n.o., 134b, 6x4) scored his second fifty of the match as Mukesh Choudhary's (3/70) triple strike kept the fourth Elite Group B fixture between Karnataka and Maharashtra on an even keel at the MCA Cricket Ground in Pune on Monday.

The visiting skipper hit 64 not out and shared a 50-run stand with Aneesh KV (17, 45b, 2x4) and a 48-run partnership with Shrijith KL (29, 62b, 5x4) to take Karnataka to 144 for five in 49.4 overs, leading Maharashtra by 157 runs at stumps on the third day.

Mukesh bowled a sharp spell to pick up three, including wickets of the last match double centurions Karun Nair and Smaran R at a crucial juncture of the contest, with Karnataka in a strong position at 131/2.

Aneesh, who's time in the middle was a stark contrast to the first innings, was the first to go back, after falling victim to Vicky Ostwal's off-spin in the 15th over.

Agarwal was then joined by left-hander Shrijith, who once again failed to impress at a crucial No. 3 spot, following his 10-run first innings knock to give Mukesh his first wicket of the innings.

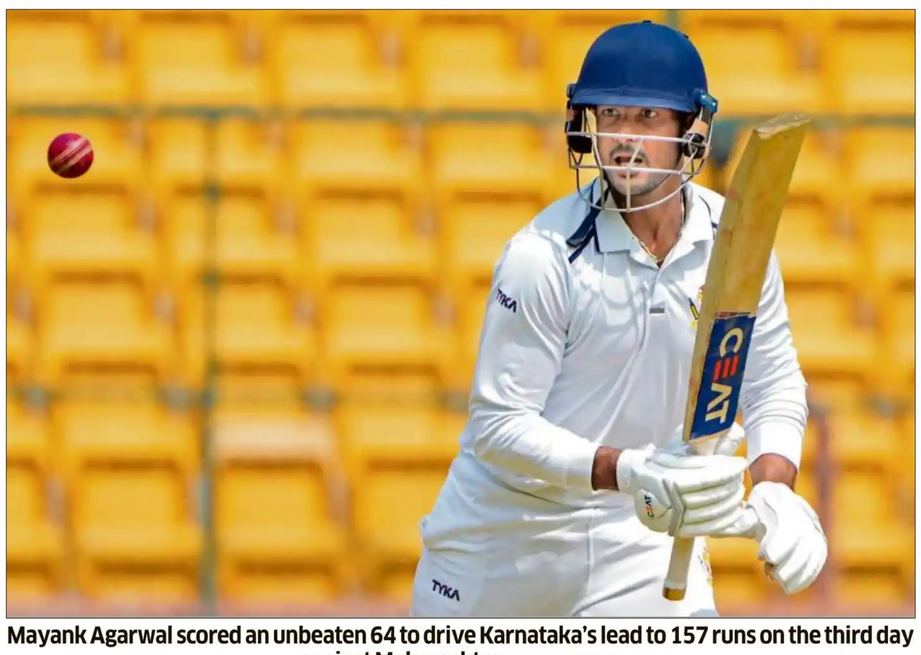
Earlier on, Maharashtra started the day at 200/6 but Jalaj Saxena's (72, 147b, 10x4) grit and Ostwal's (20, 92b, 2x4) temperament guided them to 256/6, with the duo stitching a 73-run partnership, batting almost 30 overs.

While it was the Karnataka spinners who turned the tide on day 2, it was Vidwath Kaverappa, who led from the front on the third day with figures of 2/74.

The 26-year-old broke Maharashtra's resistance and the partnership, removing Ostwal in the 86th over, caught off Smaran.

Ramakrishna Ghosh (36, 46b, 4x4, 1x6) joined Saxena in the middle and drove Maharashtra closer to Karnataka's total with a 26-run eighth-wicket stand.

Vidwath then got rid of the Saxena in the 92nd over to reduce the hosts to 282 for the loss of eight.



Mayank Agarwal scored an unbeaten 64 to drive Karnataka's lead to 157 runs on the third day against Maharashtra. PTI FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings): 313
MAHARASHTRA (I Innings O/n: 200/6): Prithvi Shaw c Aneesh b Mohsin 71 (92b, 9x4), Arshin Kulkarni st Shrijith b Shreyas 34 (48b, 5x4), Siddesh Veer st Shrijith b Shreyas 0 (4b), Ankeet Bawane b Shreyas 6 (17b), Sachin Dhas lbw Mohsin 21 (32b, 2x4), SS Nawale a Aneesh b Shreyas 26 (98b, 3x4), Jalaj Saxena c Mohsin b Vidwath 72 (147b, 10x4). Vicky Ostwal c Smaran b Vidwath 20 (29b, 2x4), Ramakrishna Ghosh (run out) 36 (46b, 4x4, 1x6), Rajneesh Gurbani c Nair b Mohsin 1 (16b), Mukesh Choudhary (not out) 0 (6b). Extras (NB-1, LB-5, B-6, W-1) 13. **TOTAL (all out, 99.2 overs) 300.**
Fall of wickets: 1-98 (Arshin), 2-100 (Veer), 3-112 (Bawane), 4-114 (Shaw), 5-139 (Dhas), 6-183 (Nawale), 7-256 (Ostwal), 2-282 (Jalaj), 9-292 (Gurbani).
Bowling: Vidwath Kaverappa 18-0-74-2, Abhilash Shetty 7-0-35-0, Shreyas Gopal 35-5-70-4, M Venkatesh 8-1-46-0, Mohsin Khan 31.2-4-64-3.
KARNATAKA (II Innings): KV Aneesh c Kulkarni b Ostwal 17 (45b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal (batting) 64 (134b, 6x4), Shrijith KL 29 b Mukesh 29 (62b, 5x4), Karun Nair c Ghosh b Mukesh 15 (34b, 1x4), Smaran R lbw b Mukesh 4 (4b, 1x4), Abhilash Shetty lbw (Jalaj) 4 (8b). Extras (B-9, LB-1, W-1) 11. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 49.4 overs) 144.**
Fall of wickets: 1-50 (Aneesh), 2-98 (Shrijith), 3-131 (Karun), 4-135 (Smaran), 5-144 (Abhilash).
Bowling: Mukesh Choudhary 18-2-70-3, Ramakrishna Ghosh 6-1-10-0, Jalaj Saxena 16-4-1-36-1, Vicky Ostwal 9-5-18-1.
Group B brief scores: At Porvorim: Goa: 284 all out & 230 all out in 65.4 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 69, Lalit Yadav 42, Rajashekhar Harikant 40) vs Madhya Pradesh: 181 all out & 21/1 in 10 overs.
At Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 173 & (O/n: 168/7) 195 all out (Manan Vohra 32, Nikhil Thakur 32, Ankit Kaushik 38, Gaurav Puri 31, Raj Bawa 25; Ayush Goyal 4-48, Harpreet Brar 3-56) vs Punjab: 142 all out & 227/2 in 66.4 overs (Uday Saharan 117 n.o., Jashanpreet Singh 57 n.o.). **Result:** Punjab won by eight wickets.
Punjab: 6 points; Chandigarh: 0.
At Mangalapuram: Saurashtra 160 all out & (O/n: 47/1) 351/5 in 90 overs (Sammar Gajjar 31, Arpit Vasavada 74, Chirag Jani 152, Prerak Mankad 52; MD Nidheesh 2-61, Nedumankuzhy Basil 2-46) vs Kerala: 233 all out in 74.5 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 80, Baba Aparajith 69, Ankit Sharma 38; Jaydev Unadkat 4-42, Hiten Kanbi 2-53).

Bavuma links up with full strength South Africa

KOLKATA, PTI

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who was part of the 'A' team's four-day game in Bengaluru, was the last to join the senior squad on Monday morning as the visitors assembled in full strength ahead of the opening Test against India beginning at the Eden Gardens on Friday.

The first batch of the South African contingent, including head coach Shukri Conrad, pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, along with the players who featured in the white-ball series in Pakistan, had arrived on Sunday morning.

"Bavuma, along with another player and a few officials, arrived this morning from Bengaluru. Most of the squad including the head coach had already checked in on Sunday," the South Africa team's local manager told PTI.

"So, South Africa now have their full contingent in. There's no activity scheduled at the Eden today... Most likely, both teams will have their first training session on Tuesday."

Bavuma, who had suffered a calf strain and missed the start of South Africa's World Test Championship title defence during the two-match Test series in Pakistan, returned to action for the 'A' side in their second four-day against India A in Bengaluru.

The SA skipper, playing under Marques Ackerman in the A side, was dismissed for a golden duck in the first innings but made a determined 101-ball 59 in the second to help his team clinch a five-wicket win in the second and final match of the series that concluded on Sunday.

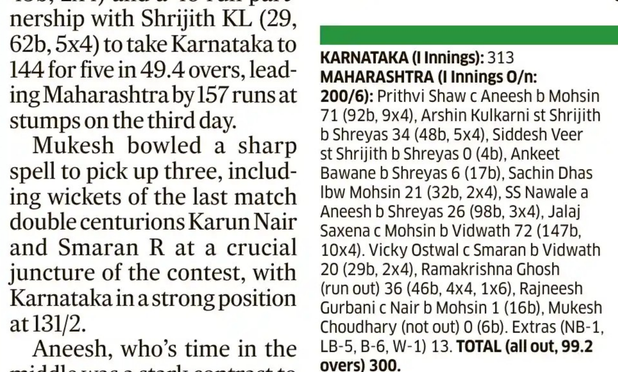
South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma arrives at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

India archers storm into finals

DHAKA, PTI: Indian recurve archers are on the verge of ending their long medal drought at the Asian Archery Championships, setting up a gold medal clash with South Korea after a hard-fought semifinal win on Monday.

The compound women's team also stormed into their successive final as India assured themselves of two medals.

The men's recurve trio of Yashdeep Bhoge, Atanu Das and Rahul overcame a third set scare and down Kazakhstan 5-3 in a tense four-set encounter. The trio of Deepshikha, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Prathika Pradeep comfortably defeated hosts Bangladesh 234-227 to enter the final.



FIBA Asia and the Karnataka Olympic Association president K Govindaraj (centre) offers some basketball tips to the participants of the Queens Premier League Season 2.

Queens Premier League S2 kicks off in exciting fashion

BENGALURU, DHNS: The KNS Queens Premier League (QPL) Season 2 kicked off with enthusiasm at Base Camp, Bangalore University Campus, featuring thrilling matches in badminton, basketball and pickleball.

The event was inaugurated by MLC K Govindaraj, president of FIBA Asia and the Karnataka Olympic Association, in the presence of QPL founder Mahesh Kumar J and actor Pramod Shetty.

Ten celebrity-led teams showcased good energy, skill and sportsmanship during the league stage of badminton competition. Hubli, Hassan, Bellary and Shimoga teams advanced to the semifinals. In the badminton final, Hubli Queens defeated Shimoga to claim the first championship win of the season.

Asha shines in South Zone's futile win

BENGALURU, DHNS: A dominant display by South Zone, including a 3-11 spell by Asha Sobhana, saw them triumph over hosts North East Zone by 38 runs in the league stages of the Senior Women's Inter-Zonal T20 Trophy in Sovima, Nagaland on Monday.

The positive result, however, came too late for fourth-placed South Zone (8 points from 4 matches), who are now out of the title run with North Zone and West Zone taking an unassailable lead of 14 points each with a round of league matches left. Only the top two from the league stages qualify for the final.

South Zone, who lost their league matches to North and West earlier, had early troubles against NEZ as opener Yuvashri K fell for a first-ball duck

Brief scores: South Zone: 149/6 in 20 overs (D Vrinda 30, Sayali Lonkar 37, Sajana S 31 n.o.; Pranita Chettri 2-26) bt North East Zone: 111/7 in 20 overs (Debasmita Dutta 30, Najmeen Khatun 30 n.o., Asha Shobana 3-11).

Brilliant Rana scripts history

CAIRO, PTI

Young Indian shooter Samrat Rana came up with a breathtaking show of marksmanship to clinch the men's 10m air pistol gold and make history at the ISSF World Championships here on Monday.

The 20-year-old shooter became the first Indian pistol shooter in an Olympic discipline to become world champion and, in the process, also helped India win the team gold in the event.

India clinched the team gold with the trio of Samrat (586), Varun Tomar (586) and Shravan Kumar (582) aggregating 1754. Italy were a distant second with 17467, while Germany (1740) took bronze.

Meanwhile, double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker and multiple Asian Games medal winner Esha Singh suffered a meltdown in the women's 10m air pistol final as the country's top-two shooters could not win a medal.

The women shooters, however, got a small consolation by winning a team silver with Esha (583), Manu (580) and world No.1 Suruchi Inder Singh (577) aggregating 1740 for the second-place finish.

With three gold, three silver and as many bronze, India jumped from fifth spot to third as China led the table with six gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

Samrat, who hails from Karnal, shot an amazing 243.7 in the final to beat back the challenge of China's Hu Kai, who took the silver in a nerve-wracking medal round with a score of 243.3.

India's Varun, who comes from a small village in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh and is a cousin of Olympian pistol ace Saurabh Chaudhary, shot 221.7 to take the bronze in a high-intensity final, which saw the lead changing hands among the three shooters multiple times.

However, it was Samrat who stuck to basics and never flinched even once as he converted his junior success into triumph at the senior level at the same venue where he had won two gold medals -- junior air pistol team and junior mixed team -- at the the 2022 World Championships.

Samrat Rana became the first Indian pistol shooter to be crowned world champion in an Olympic discipline.

Hashmath hundred blows away JSC (2)

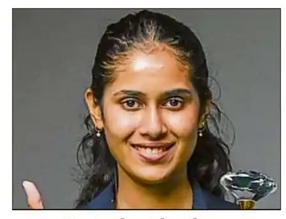
BENGALURU, DHNS: Md Hashmath Ullah cracked a brisk century while Vidmahi Gowda L, Sushil Kumar G and Rishi Dhage shared seven wickets between them as Jayanagar Cricketers eked out a massive 154-run victory over Jawahar Sports Club (2) in the KSCA Group I, Division I, II and III Under-14 Inter-club tournament here.

LOCAL CRICKET

Batting first, Jayanagar Cricketers posted 291 for the loss of seven wickets in 50 overs, with Hashmath smashing a 132-ball 159.

Chasing 292 for victory, Jawahar Sports Club (2) failed to handle the troika of Vidmahi (3/0), Rishi (2/25) and Sushil (2/28) as they were bowled out for 137 in 38.1 overs.

Brief scores: Jayanagar Cricketers: 291/7 in 50 overs (Lakshya Singh 29, Syed Muhammad Wali Hussaini 38, Md Hashmath Ullah 159; Gagan SP 2-45, Ahan 2-53, Rohan Prashanth 2-35) bt Jawahar Sports Club (2) : 137 all out in 38.1 overs (Vishal Sanjay Shivam 28; Sushil Kumar G 2-28, Rishi Dhage 2-25, Vidmahi Gowda L 3-0).
Young Pioneer Cricket Club: 155/7 in 50 overs (Prathviraj Choudhary 48, Sami Kadakol 34; Manthan 2-36, Sangeeta Rao Sashang 3-21) lt to Hammonds Cricket Club: 156/3 in 38.1 overs (Vikrant Ronav Budala 62, Lalithesh R 34 n.o.).
Century Cricketers: 96 all out in 32 overs (Ashith Sanjay Girish 2-22, Aarav Gandhi 3-15, Hannan Zaki Ahmad 2-19, Ankit Thimmaiah BU 2-14) lt to Swastic Union Cricket Club (2): 97 for no loss in 13.5 overs (Hannan Zaki Ahmad 51 n.o., Daiwik M 40 n.o.).
Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (1): 218/6 in 45 overs (Aarav Srivastava 45, Ameya Prashant Nayak 27, Ebenezer Varghese Joyy 53 n.o., Partha BN 32; Shreyas Gupta 2-30, Kirthan N Reddy 2-37) bt Jupiter Cricketers Association: 93 all out in 36.4 overs (Sai Teja Atti 31, Tanav Tej Reddy Addaganti 2-8, Aditya Singh 2-15, Tejasvi Sharma 3-18).
Minerva Cricket Club: 168 all out in 49.1 overs (Akhieera Allan W 82, Yug Sinh Jadeja 32; P Md Ashish 2-31, Aarav Singh 2-18, Tanuj M 4-26) bt Vultures Cricket Club: 157 all out in 49.3 overs (Sanjeeva Reddy 42; Dhiraj HY 2-20, Rajveer Padam Mehta 3-26).
Visweswarapuram Cricket Club (2): 83 all out in 34 overs (Ashwwath Nagarajan 3-15, Aadithya P 3-14, Syed Hammad Ulla 3-24) lt to Herons Cricket Club: 87/1 in 11.3 overs (Jaswanth N 52 n.o.).
City Gymkhana: 162 all out in 44 overs (Chethan Bhat A 53, Sachin A 38; Aditya Nagaraj Gorthi 2-17, Tamoghna V Rao 2-37, Mayuk Mukherjee 2-22) bt Friends Union Cricket Club (1): 150 all out in 48.4 overs (Shrutik Ghosh 27, Preyansh Naveen 32, Kaushik M 28; Meghan KJ 2-28, Chethan Bhat A 2-27, Hridaan Vasisth 4-26).
Chintamani Sports Association, Chintamani: 122 all out in 24.3 overs (Mayur N 64; Ishaanth Y 4-26, Ishaan S Kumar 4-23) lt to The Bangalore Cricketers: 125/5 in 33.4 overs (Ishaanth Y 61 n.o.), Raghav K Kumar 2- 36, Krishna Verma 2-33).



Natasha Chethan

Amee, Natasha extend winning streaks

BENGALURU, DHNS: India's top women cueists Amee Kamani, Keerthana Pandian and Natasha Chethan continued their fine form with commanding wins in their respective group matches at the IBSF World Snooker Championships in Doha, Qatar on Monday.

Seasoned campaigner Amee, who dropped a frame in her opener, registered a comfortable 2-0 win over Iran's Mitra Ghaedi Bardeh for her second straight victory in Group D. The 33-year-old cueist from Indore will face Singapore's Charlene Chai in her final group match.

Reigning World U-21 champion Natasha Chethan maintained her flawless run, defeating Iran's Saidehsadat Sanati 2-0 late on Sunday before brushing aside Hong Kong China's Lau Sum Yi in straight frames on Monday.

In the men's section, Hussain Khan went down 2-4 to Poland's Sebastian Milewski in Group L. The Indian cueist must beat Iraq's Alijalil Ali in his final league encounter to stay in contention for the knockout rounds.

Results (Indian results only): Men: Group E: Brijesh Damani bt Mhanaa Alobaidli (Qat) 4-1 (54-60, 113-1, 64-34, 81-55, 60-19); **Group L:** Sebastian Milewski (Pol) bt Hussain Khan 4-2 (75-23, 88-17, 33-79, 13-68, 98-38, 59-14).
Women: Group B: Keerthana Pandian bt Emilia Putri Rahmanda (Ina) 2-0 (59-39, 71-42); **Group C:** Ho Yee Ki (HKC) bt Aanya Patel 2-1 (80-31, 65-80, 59-36); **Group D:** Amee Kamani bt Mitra Ghaedi Bardeh (Irn) 2-0 (46-35, 55-31).

Kickstart FC's Premish T (left) and South United FC's Noel S vie for the ball during their Super Division League championship match at BFC in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Kickstart tighten grip on title with narrow win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kickstart FC stretched their lead at the top of the table to five points with a narrow 1-0 victory over South United in the latest round of matches of the KSFA Super Division League Championships at BFS here.

LOCAL FOOTBALL

The solitary goal of the match was scored by Saikhom Borish Singh in the 19th minute against the fifth-placed rival, who are on 25 points from 15 games. Kickstart moved to 41 points and are five points ahead of second-placed FC Bengaluru United with three matches left for both the title rivals.

Meanwhile, third-placed Kodagu FC (33 points from 15 games) kept their slim chances alive with a close 3-2 victory over 10th-placed FC Agniputhra (20 from 15). Lalkrawsmaiwai scored a brace in the crucial victory.

Results: Kickstart FC: 1 (Saikhom Borish Singh 19th) bt South United: 0; SC Bengaluru: 4 (Aadarsh Narayanana Puram 3rd, 80th, 82nd, Arnav Raghavan 44th) bt United Stars FC: 3 (Vishal R 20th, 47th P, Emmanual J Adolf 67th); Kodagu FC: 3 (Lalkrawsmaiwai 9th, 53rd P, Tagru James 42nd) bt FC Agniputhra: 2 (Crispin C Cleetus 11th, 71st).

CHESS WORLD CUP

Arjun, Praggu lead charge

Five Indians stay in fray after Gukesh, Vidit bow out of the competition

MANISHA MOHITE

India's Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa (in pic), Pranav Venkatesh and Karthik Venkataraman have all made it to the fourth round of the FIDE Chess World Cup. PTI FILE PHOTO

Only 32 players, including five from Indians have advanced to the fourth round of FIDE World Cup being played at Resort Rio in Goa. The 206-player knockout event spread over eight rounds in four weeks began with 24 Indians in fray. Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, Pentala Harikrishna, Pranav Venkatesh and Karthik Venkataraman have qualified to the fourth round.

The biggest jolt for India was the ouster of World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju in the third round itself. Another notable elimination was of Vidit Gujrathi in the tie-break on Sunday.

With just four more rounds remaining, the event remains as unpredictable as ever with most of the other pre-tournament favourites like Ian Nepomniachtchi, two-time World Championship Challenger Anish Giri, Nodirbek Abdusattorov being knocked out in the early stages. The World Cup lives up to its reputation of being a graveyard for most of the top guns, the intensity and pace taking a toll on the best in business.

Apart from the prize money and the title, at stake are three qualifying berths to the 'Candidates Tournament' an eight-player double Round Robin event with the winner challenging the World Champion for the title. FIDE also announced that Cyprus has the venue for the Candidates event scheduled from March 28 to April 16.

Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura and Giri have already qualified for the Candidates. Pacing with a rhythm is a very crucial aspect for a long and stressful event like this one, where you face elimination from the second game itself if you have either lost or drawn the first game of every round.

Arjun Erigaisi so far has been the pick of Indian players both in terms of game quality and temperament while R Praggnanandhaa has been skating on thin ice, right from the time he joined the event in the second round.

Round 4.1 pairings: GM Peter Leko (HUN) - GM Arjun Erigaisi; GM R Praggnanandhaa - GM Daniil Dubov; GM Pranav Venkatesh - GM Nodirbek Yakubboev (UZB); GM Nils Grandelius (SWE) - GM Pentala Harikrishna; GM Liem Quang Le (VIE) - GM Karthik Venkataraman

Fritz fires past Musetti

American ace begins ATP Finals campaign with commanding win

TURIN (ITALY), AFP

USA's Taylor Fritz returns during his straight-set victory over Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in the ATP Finals game in Turin on Monday. AFP

Taylor Fritz got his bid for a first ATP Finals crown off to the best possible start with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-4 win over home favourite Lorenzo Musetti in Turin on Monday.

The 28-year-old American, who lost in last year's final to Jannik Sinner, was out of the blocks quickly in the Jimmy Connors group match, taking an early break and holding on to pocket the first set.

The crowd did their best to lift a visibly fatigued Musetti who was a late addition to the line-up. He only qualified for the Finals on Saturday after Novak Djokovic pulled out with injury, shortly after beating the Italian in the final of the Athens event.

Winning 84 percent of his first serves and giving away just four break point chances, none of which were taken, Fritz continued to control the match. The American broke to go 3-1 up and served cleanly all the way to the line.

"I am really happy. I thought I did a lot of things really well," Fritz said.

"I did a great job early on in the match to serve my way out of trouble and save some break points. The whole second set I played well and had a lot of chances to break that I didn't get.

"You can lock in, it is the last tournament of the year and it is the ATP Finals, it's a big deal."

Neither player will have time to rest as both are back on court on Tuesday.

Fritz faces Carlos Alcaraz who also got off to a winning start by beating Alex de Minaur on Sunday while Musetti takes on the Australian.

Later on Monday, Sinner takes on the Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime in the Bjorn Borg group.

Lando Norris. REUTERS

Norris soars at Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO, AFP

Lando Norris extended his lead in the drivers' world championship to 24 points ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri with a well-judged victory in Sunday's dramatic Sao Paulo Grand Prix - but Red Bull's Max Verstappen stole the show by racing from a pit-lane start to finish third. In a tense and incident-filled contest, Norris won by 10.388 seconds ahead of Mercedes' teenage Italian rookie Kimi Antonelli with the four-time champion Verstappen just 0.362 seconds behind after a charging drive, including a puncture, to a podium finish.

George Russell came fourth in the second Mercedes ahead of the luckless Piastri and three remarkable rookies in Haas' Oliver Bearman and the Racing Bulls of Liam Lawson and Isack Hadjar. Nico Hulkenberg was ninth for Sauber and Pierre Gasly 10th for Alpine.

It was Norris' seventh win of the season and the 11th of his career, moving him within sight of a first world title with a comfortable advantage.

Lewandowski puts on a show as Barcelona slam four past Vigo

VIGO (SPAIN), AFP: Robert Lewandowski **(in pic)** hit a hat-trick to help Barcelona beat Celta Vigo 4-2 on Sunday in La Liga and cut Real Madrid's lead down to three points.

The veteran Polish striker's treble helped Hansi Flick's side capitalise on Madrid's 0-0 draw earlier on at Rayo Vallecano.

Teenager Lamine Yamal also scored for Barca in another gripping game produced by the champions' attacking approach, and Marcus Rashford produced two more assists.

Frenkie de Jong was sent off late on for Barca for two yellow cards but by then the champions had secured their victory to move second.

"Vigo is always difficult for us" Lewandowski told Movistar.

Results: Athletic Bilbao: 1 (Nico Williams 25th) bt Real Oviedo: 0; Rayo Vallecano: 0 drew with Real Madrid: 0; Valencia: 1 (Rioja 82nd) drew with Real Betis: 1 (Cucho 74th); Mallorca: 1 (Muriqi 14th) bt Getafe: 0; Celta Vigo: 2 (Carreira 11th, Iglesias 43rd) lt to Barcelona: 4 (Lewandowski 10'th, 37th, 73rd, Yamal 45+4).

B'luru to host pickleball Natls

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Pickleball Association (KPA), under the aegis of the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), announced the first Indian Pickleball Nationals will be held in Bengaluru from November 13 to 16 at The Sports School.

This year's championship will be the first Nationals held after pickleball received official National Sports Federation (NSF) recognition for IPA from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

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